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MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN AND NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE.

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Editorial.

AGRICULTURE IN ENGLAND.

The competition which operates to depress English agriculture to its present condition is receiving increasing attention throughout that country, the discussion over it growing more sharp and close continually. It is asserted in a recently issued pamphlet containing facts of profound interest to the English farmer, that the landowners in England have not as yet felt the pinch of the want of profit in farming as they are certain to do soon. The burden of tithes and rates is the primary cause of complaint. The statement is made that in many places in England the tithe-rent charge amounts to more than the land is worth per acre to let for cultivation. The rates sometimes mount to the overwhelming figures of $1.85 per acre per annum. And the enormous increase in the amount of laborers' wages is asserted to be another cause of agricultural depression and decay in England. It is even given out that unless the wages of English farm-laborers come down rapidly, they will be more likely to get no wages at all. It is the farmers' capital from which they have been very largely drawn, not the profits of production. Compared with the cost of labor, rent is declared to amount to but a trifle.

As to the near future of the English landowner, it is asserted by the capable writer of the pamphlet referred to that average quality of land in Great Britain is, at present prices, practically worthless from the rent point of view, and that if nothing occurs to raise prices land will cease to pay rent; and when it will pay no rent it will soon not pay to cultivate, and must go to woods and rubbish. Rent and wages are being fast brought down to a point where they will be invisible; and it is admitted that the proper and profitable cultivation of land in Great Britain has become one of the most serious problems of this generation. It is an English farmer who lays down such statements as the above, which entitles them to all the more serious consideration.

On the subject of existing railroad rates, it is asserted that the unfair preference given to foreign produce in the rates of freight charged by rail has had a very injurious effect in the advantage given to the foreigner, and that English farmers cannot rest until this burden is completely and forever removed. We get the information from this pamphlet that tithes and rates in England cost from ten to twenty shillings; labor, thirty-five to fifty shillings; rent, ten to thirty shillings; and manure, fifteen to twenty shillings per acre; that is, a total of seventy to one hundred and twenty shillings per acre per annum. And while these charges are more or less an absolute essential to the position and civilization of the English farmer,—in other words, an actual tax on home production,—they have to deal with one thing that more than all others makes farming utterly unprofitable, and that is the enormous foreign supply admitted to the home markets free of taxation, which has reduced the price of their produce from two to three pounds per acre in the last few years, and which, if not in some way met or counterbalanced, must eventually drive a large portion of the fertile land out of cultivation.

It is urged, in a discussion of adequate remedy for such a condition of things, that no reduction of tithes or rents that is possible will be sufficient to offset the advantage given to untaxed foreign competition. From forty to fifty shillings per quarter is asserted to be the very lowest price at which it will pay to raise wheat in England. A bounty on wheat-growing is proposed as the sure cure of the whole trouble, the bounty to come out of duties imposed upon imported manufactured articles, including flour. Objections are raised to this, while the objectors assert that, if it be necessary to put a restriction on grain importations, a sliding scale of duties is the true plan. It is thought that such a sliding scale, could it have been established in time, would have prevented the present stage of agricultural depression.

FRUITS AS WELL AS OTHER FARM CROPS.

It is urged that the Department of Agriculture can do much for the cause of Pomology which it does not do now, and still not go out of its way any. President Barry, the well-known fruit-grower, asserts emphatically that it can do for fruits what it is doing for other farm crops, namely, collect and publish statedly statistics of the fruit crop throughout the various fruit-growing sections of the country. Such statistics he accounts as of great value, and it will be about all the government can do to collect and publish them. It is already asked to establish experimental stations all over the country, and to send experts to investigate the fruit culture of other countries. But he insists that this can be done much better by the States individually, and that they are the ones to do it. Each State knows best what it needs, one not needing what the other does.

As to the proposed Experimental Stations in the several States, Mr. Barry is of the fixed opinion that they will be much better managed by the States than they would be by the Department of Agriculture, the head of which is changed, with every administration. Many years ago, he reminds us, when the Department was in its younger days, it attempted to do something for pomology, establishing an experimental orchard at Washington, employing models of fruits and of insects injurious to fruits, and forming quite an interesting museum. But it did very little for pomology. We are not living under a paternal government, he says. We are a free people, and we are expected to do our own work, not looking to the government to do it for us. Mr. Barry plainly declares that the American Pomological Society, without a dollars' worth of assistance from State or nation, has done more for American pomology in the last twenty-five years than the Department of Agriculture could have done with fifty thousand dollars a year.

He claims that all the progress we have made in agriculture and kindred arts is the work of State and volunteer societies, and these must be looked to in the future as they have been relied on in the past. He expressed his ability to show that what has been done for the advancement of pomology in European countries has been done independently of their governments, by societies and individuals. There is no denying that after government shall have done in this direction all it can, the ultimate result turns upon the individual. He needs only stimulation and encouragement, if he needs anything. To undertake to do for him what he must finally and everywhere do for himself, is but taking the work out of the only hands that are capable of performing it.

BETTER HORSES CALLED FOR.

We mean, better horses for the United States cavalry service. A well-known expert on the subject asserts that there is scarcely a good horse in the army. The general complaint of cavalry men is that horses cannot keep up on their feed. They are mostly purchased by boards of experts appointed for the purpose, in the blue grass region of Kentucky or in a corner of Missouri. The breeders and dealers being well apprised beforehand of their coming, they begin to rustle around to get stock doctored up. When these horses arrive at the Western posts, the journey having given them time to get rid of the effects of the drugs administered, fully ten per cent. of them are condemned as unfit for use. The remaining ninety per cent. are far from being well fitted for the service, because they have not been raised properly. They are grain fed, whereas cavalry horses must live as the cattle do on the ranges. When in actual service, they get nothing but grass. When their feed gets short they lose courage. Sixty or seventy led horses are to be seen following a command, after a few days' hard riding.

The reason why the army could not catch the Apaches was because the Apaches were the better mounted. And the Indian horses did not have to carry such heavy loads. Reckoning each cavalry man to weigh 150 pounds, the entire weight carried by the horse is not less than 300 pounds. This expert says a horse with all this weight upon him from so many traps, must travel from sunrise to sunset over no road at all, to do which he must needs have muscles of steel and a constitution of adamant. The regulations provide the sizes, ages, and weights of the different horses to be used as follows: Cavalry horses—to be geldings, of hardy colors, sound in all particulars, in good condition, well broken to the saddle, from five to sixteen hands high, and not less than five nor more than nine years old. Minimum weight, 950 pounds. And we are told by this expert that little range mustangs and cayuses do better in an Indian chase or a thief round-up than the best grain-fed horse conscientiously purchased in the best grain-fed horse regulations.

Still he does not think mustangs should be purchased. Good grass-fed horses can be, but a movement is understood to be on foot for the establishment of government stud farms for breeding horses for the service. It is by no means a new idea. Four such farms are maintained in France by the government. Maximilian brought over with him to Mexico a lot of government-bred horses, and many of them were left behind when his force was driven out of that country. The range horses in Durango have been immensely improved by crossing with these horses brought over by the Frenchmen. The government stud scheme is to be tried, though it is known to be open to objection.

GUERNSEY COWS FOR THE DAIRY

In a communication to an English Live Stock Journal, Mr. L. F. Allen, of Buffalo N. Y., has the following about Guernseys:

"Within the last five years I have adopted the grade cows of this breed, by the use of thoroughbred Guernsey bulls to my herd of high grade Shorthorn cows, thus producing a better class of milkers for butter making, the Shorthorns not being always up to the required standard for that object. Not that the Shorthorns in their original condition were not satisfactory dairy cows for many years after their importation to our country, but running so much and early to flesh, and cultivated more for the latter purpose, the milking quality has been neglected, and the almost exclusively milking breeds lately introduced here, as the Ayrshire, Jersey, and Holstein, have partly taken their places with dairymen and private families. Thus far, my short experience favors the Guernsey over either of the others, of perhaps a like origin with the Jerseys in centuries back. I prefer them to Jerseys for their great size and hardihood, robust forms, carrying more flesh and general quality and quantity of milk, according to size. Not that I at all undervalue the Jerseys in the opinions of those who prefer them, but their diminutive size and leanness of flesh do not suit my fancy. The full square udders, good size of their teats, easiness of milking, and lympathic temperament of my half and three-quarter grade Guernsey cows equal my expectations.

"I intend, as time progresses, with a continuous use of thoroughbred bulls, to breed the grades still higher, it having been fully proved with those who have long used both Guernseys and Jerseys, that well-graded cows of those bloods give as rich milk and high quality of butter as thoroughbreds, at much less cost of purchase than they. Ayrshires are valuable for cheese making; so are Holsteins; but the lessened quality of milk of the latter, compared with the largely superior quantity, give meagre weights of butter. Yet for supply of milk for city, village and ordinary family use, they may be superior to some others. I do not wish to depreciate them."

—Timid people are fearful lest poultry keeping will be overdone, and the market for poultry products become overstocked. There is an effectual safeguard against such a result in the fact that the artificial hatching and rearing of poultry still continues to be a skilled industry in which comparatively few are really successful. When we cease to import eggs by the million dozens, it will be time enough to quit the business of keeping laying hens.

THE SELECTION OF POULTRY BREEDING STOCK.

BY STEPHEN BEALE OF ENGLAND.

If there were only negative influences at work in the breeding of animals and birds, the breeder would find the selection of his stock a very much simpler business than it is proved to be. But as every one discovers who attempts the breeding of pure stock, there are positive influences at work which must be reckoned with, if any measure of success has to be attained. It is, as we shall presently see, to counteract this that the producers of high-bred stock resort to close, or in-breeding, as in this way the risk of variation is greatly minimised, though that is often at the expense of important qualities, such as stamina and size.

The first and most important of these positive influences, is that known as the law of reversion, or atavism. That this is a law which needs to be reckoned with every breeder can testify, and there are recorded some most remarkable cases illustrative of it. It is not necessary, however, that these should be given here, for the law of reversion needs no proof, surprising though it undoubtedly is. Darwin explains it as follows: "When a breed has been crossed only once by some other breed, the offspring occasionally show for many generations a tendency to revert to the foreign breed—some say, for a dozen or even a score of generations. After twelve generations, the proportion of blood, to use a common expression, is only one in 2,048; and yet, as we see, it is generally believed that a tendency to reversion is retained by this remnant of foreign blood. In a breed which has not been crossed, but in which *both* parents have lost some character which their progenitors possessed, the tendency, whether strong or weak, to reproduce the lost character might, as was formerly remarked, for all that we can see to the contrary, be transmitted for almost any number of generations.

"When a character which has been lost in a breed, reappears after a great number of generations, the most probable hypothesis is, not that one individual suddenly takes after an ancestor removed by some hundred generations, but that in each successive generation the character has been transmitted latent, and, at last, under unknown favorable conditions, is developed." And in another work the same famous naturalist says that "the cases of reversion may be divided into two main classes which, however, in some instances blend into one another; namely, first, those occurring in a variety or race when crossed, but which has lost by variation some character that it formerly possessed and which afterwards reappears. The second class includes all cases in which an individual with some distinguishing character, a race, or species, has at some former period been crossed, and a character derived from this cross, after having disappeared during many or several generations, suddenly reappears."

As the various breeds of poultry are derived from one, or, at most, two original stocks, and as many of the varieties we have at the present time are of comparatively recent production, that is they are only a few generations old in their present form, the second class may be dismissed from which most of all faces the poultry-breeder, and he needs to exercise the greatest care in the choice of birds of other strains than his own, lest the introduction of these will develop long-lost and objectionable characteristics. In fact many of the best breeders never think of introducing any absolutely new blood, but find out birds for their purpose among stocks known to be related to their own. Or, if they are compelled to find absolutely fresh blood, they take the precaution of not introducing this directly into the main stock. This undoubtedly leads to a great deal of what is known as in-breeding, that is, the mating of closely related birds together. By doing this, merely external qualities can be more easily preserved and improved, and it is not too much to say that a very large proportion of the best show stock, both animals and birds, are closely bred. This of itself would be an evil, were it not for the fact that all the harm resultant from the high breeding can be overcome by the first cross, and that the undoubted benefits consist in the development of the best qualities more than overbalance it. And the law of the survival of the fittest works here, as everywhere else, for those varieties or families which are too much weakened by this system of breeding either die out, or a different system is resorted to, in reference to them ere they become extinct. The constant introduction of new varieties prevents poultry, as a whole, suffering, and as these often contain the qualities really worth preserving in the weaker kinds, they have not lived in vain. To secure, therefore, what are known as high class stock, a certain amount of close breeding is needed, but by this I do not mean in-breeding pure and simple.

One of the most important factors in this consideration is that the highly developed parts are the most difficult to maintain. In fancy poultry and pigeons this is the everyday experience of breeders. Given any characteristic which is purely a spurt, or has been grafted on to the breed, and it takes all the efforts of breeders to keep it up. Constant and unsurying selection are required or the characteristic would disappear. Take, for instance, the white face of the Spanish, the white earlobe of the Leghorn, the globular chest of the Polish, the feathered legs of the Cochin and the Brahma, the lacing of the Wyandotte, and the cuckoo plumage of the Plymouth Rocks—all these are artificial characteristics, or minor characteristics artificially developed, and as a consequence they have no real basis to work upon, or to resist the inexorable law of reversion. In process of many generations and the most careful breeding they may be so fixed as to appear unalterable, but it will not be long, if neglected or strange blood introduced, ere they will show themselves in some form or another.

On this point Darwin says: "If, in our domestic animals, any part of the whole animal be neglected, and no selection be applied, that part (for instance, the comb in the Dorking fowl) or the whole breed will cease to have a uniform character, and the breed may be said to be degenerating. There may truly be said to be a constant struggle going on between, on the one hand, the tendency to reversion to a less perfect state, as well as an innate tendency to new variations, and, on the other hand, the power of steady selection to keep the breed true. In the long run selections gains the day." Now this brings us to a most important conclusion for those whose object is to maintain and improve the economic qualities of poultry, rather than the merely external characteristics, namely, that while the highly developed parts are very difficult indeed to maintain, and need the greatest care in selection to prevent their loss, the less showy but more valuable properties, such as early maturity, laying powers, and quality of flesh are much more tenacious, and do not readily lose their influence. I do not mean by this that even these qualities cannot be lost by neglect, but they are not so easily lost. This is a matter which can be proved by ordinary experience, and any old henwife will have some tale to tell of the influence exerted by a famous layer, whose blood was like that of the Duchess tribe in Short-Horns. The poultry breeder may feel, therefore, that his efforts for the improvement of his stock, in the direction of economic qualities, are likely to be of a permanent nature, and that he is exerting an influence which will not be confined to his own yard. He is, in fact, after the substance, not the shadow, and though he will be wise, for many reasons, if he uses pure bred stock, he will not be seeking some highly developed characteristic which will be difficult to maintain and easy to lose.—[Country Gentleman.

SHEEP HUSBANDRY.

BY JOHN E. RUSSELL.

On this important agricultural industry the Hon. John E. Russell, Secretary of the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture, delivered a most interesting and timely address, which was full of practical instruction, at a late meeting of the Essex Co. Agricultural Society at Rowley, Dec. 30. The Mirror and Farmer made a partial report which we transfer to our columns:

"Sheep husbandry," says Mr. Russell, "is feasible on almost any farm. It requires but little capital; it does not impose a large amount of work upon the household, as in dairying; it enriches the land and restores the pastures; the manure pays for the labor; the market for lambs is always good and prices satisfactory, especially for the early ones; mutton always sells readily at fair prices; there is a ready market for wool at all times, though the price has been a little lower of late. For these and other reasons, I have labored constantly and earnestly for the advancement of this branch of farming, during my years' connection with the State Board of Agriculture, but I must confess that my labor has been without avail, and the number of sheep kept in the State has constantly decreased. I should be unwilling to continue the business of farming without a hundred good ewes to enrich the land and to furnish their annual returns in wool and early lambs, which are sufficient to give a good living, and I do not know how he can get it easier or more pleasantly.

"Men away from cities and with few advantages can keep sheep with good success. Sheep are always kept on second-class fodder, such as corn fodder, meadow hay and the like, and need nothing better till after lambing, when they should have the best of grass for a few weeks. Get your sheep from the Down families, as they have heavy coarse, matted wool which protects them from storms and rough weather. A good way to learn the sheep business, and get into it easy, is to buy your ewes in the summer, after lambing, keeping them through the next winter, having them lamb in the pasture in May, and sell the ewes killed, and I received full pay for all damage done. Many complain of the law, but the law is all on our side, except to prevent the damage. The trouble is, we are not familiar with the law, and so do not get our rights under the law, and it is our own fault. There are 150,000 dog owners in the State and over 3000 sheep owners, and it is impossible to pass any more stringent law than we have. The worst dogs are those that come from the cities, setters, bird dogs, and the like, that are always running round, crossing pastures, and into all sorts of mischief, and who think a sheep is some kind of a wild animal that they ought to destroy. The collie dog, when untrained, is one of the worst. He is always full of business, and when his education is neglected, he goes into business on his own account, and the sheep have to suffer; and yet we can hardly keep sheep without his help.

In crossing England from Liverpool, you are never out of sight of flocks of sheep. They are on every hillside and in every pasture, as plenty as the boulders in my own Franklin county, or in your county of Essex; and yet the pressure of dogs to the square inch, if I may so express it, is greater there than in any other part of the world. There really seem to be more dogs than people, but they never touch a sheep, for they know what they are, and that they are to be protected, and not destroyed. The instinct of the dog is to guard and care for his master's property. The fault is with us, and not with the dogs. We must keep more sheep, and educate the dogs."

—A swindler has been going the rounds among the farmers of New York State, pretending to be in quest of a summer home, claiming also that he is a celebrated oculist. He sold any quantity of eye glasses to well-to-do farmers for $40, which could be had anywhere of traders for ten or fifteen cents.

—Never place fresh eggs near lard, fruit, cheese, fish or other articles from which any odor arises. The eggs are extremely active in absorbing power, and in a very short time they are contaminated by the particles of objects in their neighborhood, by which the peculiar and exquisite taste of a new laid egg is destroyed.

The Horse.

THE MARE.

A. B. ALLEN.

In horse breeding, it is as important that the mare should be perfect as that the stallion should be so. In fact, some consider it more so, and this is especially the case with the horses of the Arabs, who for centuries excelled all other nations in their breed of horses. So highly do they think of the mare, that they count her only in the records of their horse pedigrees, and in detailing the pedigrees of the progeny, they mention the dams only, while "western" breeders give more conspicuous mention to the sires. In their stealthy forays, they prefer her for the mount; but perhaps this is because on such occasions she never neighs as the stallions are apt to do on a close approach of the enemy. Like the American Indians, it is their rule to steal noiselessly on their foes in order the more surely to surprise and overwhelm them before they can gather together for defense.

Now I emphatically say to our farmers, select for breeding such mares as are the most perfect in form and action; as nearly as possible of the proper size for the progeny you may wish to rear; and, above all, let them be entirely sound in wind and limb; of a kind temper, and yet bold; spirited and full of life, on account of their breed from a sound animal, especially one unsound in the wind, legs and feet; for nine chances out of ten this unsoundness will crop out sooner or later in her offspring, and thus render them more or less worthless.

Spring is the usual time when farmers in general prefer to have their colts dropped; but some—and the number is on the increase—who have good barns and warm stables, prefer the autumn. Their reasons for this are that work is much greater and more driving in spring, and that the autumn-foaling mare can go through it without danger of injury; whereas, if a mare is to foal in the spring, it is dangerous to use her at all; for in so doing, she is liable to sink the colt prematurely, or cast it dead. In either event, hard work for the dam weakens the offspring before birth, and lessens its subsequent growth and vigor.

In spring the mare is turned to grass, which at this time is quite lush, and does not make so nourishing a quality of milk as she yields in autumn and winter when her ration of hay and wheat, bran and grain, is drier and richer. She ought then to have a roomy stall, with a dry yard well littered, in which both she and colt can exercise in mild weather; or, what is about as well except in a severe climate, she should have for a stable a tight boarded shed, open only to the south, the floor of which must be made dry earth or sand, for if the colt stands on plank, stone or brick, it will be very liable to ringbone, making it nearly worthless to rear.

The colt should be taught to eat, as soon as it will, a pint or so of oats with a quart of wheat bran daily, and this ration should be gradually increased with its age, till it will take double the amount night and morning. Wheat bran is excellent for worms, and colts that are fed with a moderate quantity of it daily are scarcely ever troubled with these pests.

When the colt is fed its ration of grain, this should be placed in a box by itself, a little distance from the mare, and it should be tied up with a halter so far away that she cannot reach the grain. The colt can then eat the whole of it slowly and without disturbance, which is highly important to his digestion, vigor and growth.—[Rural New Yorker.

THE REVIVAL OF SHEEP.

It is but a short time since some of our sheep farmers were talking very much depressed about the condition of their industry, and declaring prices were too low to permit any hope of prosperity. The wise among them, however, kept right along in the same road they had been accustomed to travel, making no change beyond cutting of necessary expenses, the bestowal of a little more upon the flock, and the raising and improvement of its general standard by the weeding out of inferior animals and breeding up the remainder. There has been a turn in the tide, which always comes sooner or later; prices have revived, and the men who have good sheep are among the happiest and most complacent to be found anywhere. The rapid rise of prices the past autumn has been quite discouraging also to farmers who have been accustomed to sell cattle at much better prices than have been recently current; but really there is nothing in the present outlook or situation to justify any distrust or alarm about the average and almost uninterrupted profit of beef production. Possibly other and more enduring causes would have operated in the direction of lower prices, for beef was really higher in price than any other agricultural product; but much of the swift decline was undoubtedly due to the unusual drouth which prevailed over large sections of country, and which forced an unusual number of thin cattle to be offered for sale, while the most important class of buyers of this description of cattle, with the prospect of short feed before them, were to a large degree out of the market. Whatever of value is lost from this cause will be restored in the natural working of the market, and the number of thin cattle sent forward last fall may likely be found influencing the market for two years to come in the way of diminished supplies. The cattle interests are in no danger of such a long pull as the sheep industry has encountered, for while people in a fit of economy may continue to wear their last season's clothes their dinners must be provided for every day. So cattle-growers should keep right along, in full confidence that they are secure from anything like a prolonged depression in their business, which must ever be regarded as the most important and lucrative industry of the farm. If at any time current values should fall below the average it is likely that some inferior animals will cease to pay their way, in which case they should be relentlessly weeded out. The best animals will always bring the largest returns; if nothing pays they will come the nearest to it of any; if there is only a little money to be made it is the best animals that will come; and if prices are good it is the best cattle that first catch the breeze and ride on the top wave, almost turning carloads into fortunes. No matter what comes, therefore, let the work of improving the character of the farm stock know no interruption, and the lower the price the higher the standard to which the farmer should breed, and the more important will be the result of improvement.—Breeder's Gazette

QUEER STRAWBERRY FARMING.

A style of growing strawberries, which is new for California, says the Stockton mail, can be seen at the residence of H. C. Keyes and Joseph Hewlett, of that city. The strawberry bed consists of a brick mound, 16 feet long, 5 feet wide at the base, nearly 4 feet high and about 6 inches wide as the top. The interior of the mound consists of rock and manure. The bricks are laid about an inch apart, and between them the plants are set. There are 600 plants in the mound. The bed is watered through a wooden chute in the top of the mound, which empties into the rock in the interior. H. N. Miller, a gardener, who is building them after the pattern of similar beds in the East, says the strawberries thrive better by this method of growing, and that each mound will produce a bushel and a half of berries twice a year—in the months of March or April and July or August. The brick, warmed by the sun, burn off the tendrils of the plants and thus prevent them from running. The berries produced are large, clean and luscious, and the beds are ornamental. Each bed costs somewhat less than $20.

Meeting of Farmers,

At the New England Agricultural Hall, Ploughman Building, 45 Milk St., Boston, Saturday, Jan. 8, 1887.

REPORT CONCLUDED

OF THE

IMPORTANT DISCUSSION

ON THE BEST METHODS OF

REPLENISHING DAIRY STOCK.

CHARLES J. PEABODY of Topsfield, leads.

BENJAMIN P. WARE, President of the Essex County Agricultural Society presides.

Large attendance of practical Farmers

Phonographically Reported expressly for the Mass. Ploughman

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[Report concluded from last week.]

REMARKS OF MR. PEABODY.

If you have got a valuable cow, or if you have raised a good heifer, you do not want to dispose of that cow when she is five or six years old. I have known a number of cases where a cow was ruined when she was only five years old. I remember one heifer in particular which I sold when she was three years old, when her first calf. I never had a better animal on my place, and I sold her for $75. The man who bought her was much pleased with her and thought he could do something wonderful with her the first year.

The Kind of Feed for Heifers.

His family fed her a great deal of grain and made a pet of her. They were always running out from the house to give her something nice. The consequence was that the heifer became very fat. When she came in again, instead of giving from ten to fourteen quarts of milk a day as they had expected, she started in with only five quarts and in a month dried up. She was very fat and her milking qualities were utterly spoiled. She was not of a beef-producing breed, but she was a cross between a good grade Jersey family and our regular native stock. I had other members of that family in my herd, and I never lost one of them at that early age, and they all contested in their milking qualities by their not giving as much milk as I expected. I have seen other instances of the same trouble with other animals, and particularly in the herds of fancy farmers where the aim has been to keep the stock looking well and where they did not have the advantage of good practical judgment.

Cost of Raising Heifers.

As to the cost of raising heifers, many men have the idea that it costs from $50 to $60 to raise a heifer up to the time of giving milk. I have raised a number of thirty heifers and I have been in the habit of keeping the best calves and raising those animals as carefully as I could. It will be said that I cannot afford to do this, and I answer accurately. We cannot to the matter of a cent, but any man can approximate within two dollars a year on the cost of feeding any animal for a year if he will only make a note and take a little time. I have weighed the hay for ten cattle in my barn, with steelyards, every day for a week. I have weighed the hay for two cows also. Of course it takes work and care, but it gives valuable information, and it is a pleasant thing to do if one enjoys taking care of cattle.

So it is in the case of calves. We feed them warm feed and a variety of it. Now here is a market value for everything we use, even if it is only skim milk. It is a definite point. We start with the oatmeal which we give them. It is easy to know how many quarts a calf drinks a day, and to multiply it by the number of days. After you have done this three or four times, you have something to go by and don't need to do it all the time. You can take an average week or month for each calf, and thereby get at the cost of the work on. I have raised heifers up to two years old for $35. That is reckoning the value of the calf at the start and the cost of all their feed and attendance in keeping them, and I have them come in when they were two years old.

Milk Product from Heifers.

From the age of two to three heifers will give a little more than milk enough to pay the cost of feeding. There is not a great deal of profit on a two year old heifer, but there is no expense. Starting with a heifer three years old as a profitable animal, I should reckon that I could raise for her that at that age, and not before. A man would rather buy a heifer with her second calf than with her first, and will pay more than the difference in the cost of keeping.

There is a man in our section who makes almost all his milk from two-year-old heifers. He is a large farmer, and he has a number coming in every year. He is continually selling off his older cows for a good price, and sells them when four or five years old, and the best heifers are sold at three. But the question is, can he get a good price for them before they are four. He has a good milking herd and is replenishing it all the time This is his regular system. I think that he is not making a loss on and he pays out no money for cows, but he raises them all from the calves of his best cows, and he buys a bull every year to keep him going. So he follows a safe, profitable and satisfactory business.

Can Raise better Stock.

We can raise a better quality of stock than we can buy at the price at which we can raise it. A man should secure the best cows he can, especially if he can keep only one cow for a family cow. If we were to buy to-day a herd of from five to fifteen cows, we would have to pay more than it has cost to raise them, or more than it would cost us to raise them in nine cases out of ten. The risk of loss by accident and death is spoken of by many with little experience as important. With good care there is nothing hardier or healthier than a calf. Few die from disease, unless they are neglected, or exposed to the cold, or insufficiently fed, or unduly fed. We have seen as fine a good calf's growing up than with any other animal on the farm. They are very different from horses, where instances have been numerous, and one cannot be disappointed in their speed or other qualities. There are none of those risks with cows. But they must be raised from good stock, and have the stock on both sides. Sometimes cows have been good milkers and all right, but the calves have failed to give good returns. In one herd near me, there could be found for years, and never had any good stock. They found out afterwards that the bull was of the Shorthorn, beef-producing family, and also that when he was a calf, running beside his mother, he had got to have milk from another cow. His calves failed to become milkers. I had one of his calves myself, and it failed to become anything else. I investigated the matter and found out the facts.

Advantage to the Seller of Stock.

The different breeds of dairy stock are not of half as much consequence to the dairy farmer, as to the man who raises to sell. As far as I have results go we have never seen anything better than a good native cow, but we cannot get uniformity in our native stock. Starting with a good rugged herd of native cattle and crossing them, preferably from my own observation, with an Ayrshire bull, we would get the best stock for milk. If we were going into the dairy business, which few of us do, we should want some other cross. I am satisfied with good native cows without a cross, but that is made up in uniformity and uniformity of the herd, and some of us want that. We want a general resemblance in size and color and do not want to have them all different. It is not a matter of practical consequence, but we like to see symmetry and uniformity in the herd. There are no better milkers than many of our native cows. We can get that kind as easily and cheaply as anything of a cross. But when we want to sell our cows the purchasers want them to have a name which will justify their appearance. They would rather buy an Ayrshire or a Jersey or a Devon than a native. It sounds more scive. It makes the purchaser seem bigger, and that is what some men want. For crossing, these points are important, but when we come to the production of milk they are not of so much consequence.

Raising Calves at a low Expense.

Now as to raising calves at a low expense, a yearling will grow on such condition, but a little calf wants a good start. Its natural food is new milk, but many of us want to supply that, and are obliged to furnish some substitute for it to increase the expense of raising a calf unnecessarily. It is better to let the calf suck for about two months, and then feed it from a pail. The milk should be fed at the right temperature, and that is better than milking the cow and letting the milk get a little cool. For if it is made warm by adding warm water that weakens the milk, and the calf must take more in order to get the same amount of nourishment. So the plan does not work well, especially in cold weather. I let the calf suck for three weeks and take it off gradually, giving it new milk for three days. Then I have got the best results with hay tea and oatmeal gruel. In some cases this diet has caused scouring, and I have found that it was due to the oatmeal which they were not strong enough to digest. Now I take the oatmeal and cover it with water, and stir it up. Then I allow it to settle and pour off the water on top. This makes a gruel, leaving the thicker part of the oatmeal on the bottom of the bucket. I think a great deal of hay tea. I take fine, early cut hay and chop it fine and cover it with boiling water and let it stand till it is about cold. I wet the oatmeal with that and get a very good substitute for milk. It is inexpensive and nutritious, and the calves thrive on it finely. In my estimate of $35, as the cost of raising a heifer, I do not claim to give them milk after they are four weeks old at all. It takes about a week before I can substitute the gruel and hay tea. Then it can be done without giving them a shock, from which it takes them weeks to recover.

Should Eat Hay as Soon as Possible.

It is a good plan to have them eat hay as soon as possible. I find it is a good thing to hang up a bundle of hay in the stable. If you hang it up in the middle of the stable so that they will run against it, they will eat it quicker than they will when it is in a manger at one side. If the bundle is hung up they will set it swinging, and curiosity is as strong in a calf as in a child. They are like a baby in one thing,—that they want to take things into their months. You know how it is when you go into the stable where they are. They want to get your coat into their mouths. If there is a harness hanging where they can get at it they like to pick up the straps and chew them. So you have to be careful where you put the harness. Now you can utilize that curiosity. If you hang up the hay in a little bundle, they will take a little of it in their mouths and so get a taste of it. After being fed on the hay tea they will eat the hay briskly in a few days. Calves, six weeks old, will eat a pound a day. Then you need not tie it up, for they will eat it in any form. But that is my starting point and it is very useful.

A Box of Fresh Earth for Calves.

Another point is to keep a box of fresh earth where they can lick it. It corrects the acidity of the stomach and gives them an appetite. Cows in cattle are eating in the pasture they will pull up more or less dirt with the grass and eat it. I think grazing animals require it, cows particularly. It is very much better to have a box of fresh earth where they can lap it. You need not give them sulphur or salt, for the dirt takes the place of all these things. It is better for them and safer for us than it is to give medicine to supply real or fancied wants.

I suppose that one has the best of all kinds of hay, cornstalks and straw. But you don't need to feed any good English hay to calves after they are six weeks old. You can use cheaper food. Which I feed when she was three years old, was what it is worth in this part of the State, and the poorer hay and corn stalks and straw, is the difference of half the price of English hay per ton. Practically we can raise a heifer just as well on cheaper hay and on a small amount of grain by using shorts or oats, and feeding hay worth from $10 to $12 a ton. We can raise just as good animals on that though not as handsome or fleshy, but they will do just as well when they come to giving milk. Much hay is cut which is not appreciated. Men talk about the necessity of having English hay for everything. In Essex County there is much hay growing on the banks of streams which is just as good as English hay for everything, except for horses. By actual test you will make as much milk as English hay. I have often tried it in my own experience and thus have found that the fact to be. We have sent samples of this fresh meadow hay to the experiment station, and Prof. Goessmann says it is equal to English hay in nutritive value. So we have the same conclusion from practical experience and from examination by an expert. It makes a great difference in the cost of animals whether we feed them on high or low-priced hay. I don't say you can raise a heifer for $35 on English hay.

The Ideal Cow.

You must not set your ideal too high for a cow. I should like to raise a twenty quart cow, but I don't expect to do it. After my own experience I should say that if you have six or eight heifers and expect that even one will reach twenty quarts a day, you will be disappointed. Such cows are rare. There will be one or two in every county, but the average will be about twelve quarts. I am satisfied with twelve quarts a day three months after calving. That is a pretty decent butter cow on a daily record. If a cow will average 2600 quarts a year, you are a great deal more successful than with the average milking herd. Individual cows will do better. If you have a cow giving you 3000 quarts a year, hold on to her as long as she will eat or give milk. I have got one, and have fed for a long time to get another, but have not found one yet. If you buy a cow and keep the record carefully, you will find out whether you get a cow that will give 3000 quarts very often. The question is often asked me how much milk a heifer should give. If she starts at eight quarts a day with her first calf, she will be doing well enough. As many as thirty heifers and cows on the average has not been over eight quarts. Some will go as low as six and a half, and some will go to nine. One went to ten and a half, but she did not keep any more the year after. These were all within a month of being two years old, for I raise spring calves. If the average to start with is eight quarts at two years old, a year from that time there should be an increase of from two to three quarts a day. If they start at ten quarts the second time the same rule of increase will hold and there will be an increase of two quarts at a time, until they get up to the amount they will ever give, which is when they are about six years old. They must give more than twelve quarts at first, or they will not average that amount for the first three months. You want to have them start as high as you can.

Heifer as a Record of Feed.

If you keep a record for only three months you will be deceived at the cost of keeping your cows and which of them it will be best to sell. Those that start with a small quantity will go for a longer time than the other, toward the end of the time. A cow should give milk for ten out of the twelve months. It is better than it is to milk them longer and it is also better than it is to milk them less. I take a great deal of pains with heifers the first year to secure that result. The number of cows that a cow will give milk is very largely determined by the number of weeks she goes dry the first year she is milked. If a heifer is dried up about Thanksgiving time because she gives only a little milk, or because it is hard work to milk her, in subsequent years, about that time no matter how much she is giving and how well you feed her, she will dry up. They have settled that conclusively.

The Best Feeder the Best Milker.

A neighbor of mine once bought two fine heifers and milked them through the summer. The man took care of them himself, and he had other work to attend to. About Thanksgiving time, his other work became very pressing. The heifers were giving three or four quarts of milk a day. He did not need the milk much and did not have the time to take care of them, so he called them off and let them go so. Next year his experience was different. He had more time to take care of them and wanted to milk them through the winter. He kept on feeding them for that purpose but within five days of the time when they were dried up the year before they fell off rapidly in their milk, and before January they were both dry, though he and his own r used every effort to keep up the flow of milk. This can be affirmed from many other results. The habit of a cow in regard to the length of time she will give milk is largely determined the first year. It is well to milk a heifer as long as you can. You are not milking for the results to be obtained then, but to form the habits of the cow.

The hardiness of the cow will have much to do with the milk. The heifer that will take the greatest amount of food is usually the best milker. But a very large breed is not usually the best for all purposes. Sometimes articles are published saying that choice cows do not proportionately give that which comes from the experiment station, and Prof. Goessmann says it is equal to English hay in nutritive value. So we have the same conclusion from practical experience and from examination by an expert. It makes a great difference in the cost of animals whether we feed them on high or low-priced hay. I don't say you can raise a heifer for $35 on English hay.

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The Ploughman.

BOSTON, SATURDAY, JAN. 22, 1887.

☞ Persons desiring a change in the address their paper must state where the paper has been sent as well as the new direction.

NEW ENGLAND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the New England Agricultural Society will be held at No. 45 Milk street, Boston, on TUESDAY, Feb. 1, 1887, at 11 o'clock A. M.

DANIEL NEEDHAM, Secretary.
Boston, January 11, 1887. jan15-2t

MEETING OF FARMERS.

There will be a meeting of Farmers in the Hall of the *Ploughman* Building, 45 Milk street, Boston, Jan. 22, 1887. Subject for discussion, "Reclaiming Wet and Swamp Lands." Hon. J. J. H. Gregory will lead; Benjamin P. Ware, Esq., will preside.

At the first of the new series of meetings, of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, Mr. Levi W. Russell of Providence read a thoroughly prepared paper on the propagation planting, and grouping of native trees which possessed a great many points of interest. His fundamental position was that our own country possesses a notably rich and beautiful sylvan growth. We have as yet hardly begun to appreciate the value to us, in a variety of ways, of the arboreal growth of our land. He quoted an educated and observant Scotchman as saying that he was amazed at the indifference shown by us to the variety and wonderful beauty of our native trees and shrubs. He said that our nurserymen and landscape gardeners are trying to grow those of foreign nativity at a cost of many failures and disappointments, when there are better kinds all about them at home. In Massachusetts alone, said Mr. Russell, there are as many native species of trees fit for timber, shade, and adornment as are to be found in all the different countries of Europe together. There are no less than forty-five species of deciduous trees indigenous to the State, which severally reach a height of from thirty to one hundred feet. There are also ten conifers growing to an equal size, and all but one, the larch, evergreens. In order to excite a permanent interest in trees one should begin with the young, and object lessons on trees should be introduced into our schools.

THE BAY STATE SOCIETY.

The Bay State Agricultural Society held its first Annual Meeting in Boston, at the United States Hotel, Boston, on Wednesday, the 19th, and a large attendance was secured. The future policy of the Society will hardly fail to take definite shape from the interesting proceedings of the annual meeting. It inaugurates its course of conduct which cannot but be a long one, considering the favorable auspices under which it was organized and the brilliant success of, its first public exhibition. This is the only active State Agricultural Society in Massachusetts now in the field, and a distinct State fair has not been held in nearly forty years. It has begun its work with noble promise. Such a show of agricultural products and implements as it made in Boston last autumn deserves to be called a memorable one; the good it did in the way of stimulus, its vitalizing influence, the concentration of the agricultural spirit of the State which it gave, and the high character of the personal elements that entered into its exhibition, all combined to entitle the Society to the front rank among its numerous rivals. In many respects it has distanced them all at a single bound. Its annual meeting therefore commands very wide attention both within and without the agricultural world, and the result cannot fail to be of fresh and large importance to all interested.

THE FARMERS' MEETING.

The conclusion, and the larger part of the phonographic report of the last meeting of farmers in Boston is to be read on the first page of the present issue of the *Ploughman*. Mr. Peabody's instructive remarks on the replenishment of dairy stock will be read by all farmers with unusual interest. They contain suggestions of the first practical value. The speaker shows at once that he is master of his subject, and he illustrates his points as he proceeds from the results of a wide observation aed ripe experience. One remark that fell from him will not fail to leave its impression in many minds, and that is, that the different breeds of dairy stock are not of half so much consequence to the dairy farmer as to the man who raises to sell. It would be well for every dairy farmer to keep that in mind. The raising of calves at a minimun cost naturally forms almost the first question in any discussion of the replenishment of dairy stock; the dairy farmer would of course like to know how to raise his own calves, from stock with whose merits he is familiar, with the least possible diminution of the profits of his dairy products. The ideal cow, too, is warned against as only an ideal, and hence a practical impossibility.

Major Emery of Lowell recited to the meeting a personal experience which will prove to be well worth careful reading, and it will get it. He tells how he rears young calves, and he gives his opinion as to the most profitable age of cows for milkers. He gave from memory the amount of feed he allowed his cows; but he has since made his statement accurate by referring to his record books, which show that the feed of forty-eight cows for one day was 630 pounds of corn fodder and second crop grass cut and mashed together, reckoned at $15 per ton; 275 pounds of shorts, at $16.75 per ton; 104 pounds of oats and cob meal, the oats costing thirty-eight cents per bushel; and 80f pounds of cotton-seed meal. The colloquial discussion that ensued was a sifting out of the leading points made by the speakers, and their presentation with their sharpened ends in front. It is this feature of any agricultural discussion that imparts the chief value to it as a whole. Taking all together, few elaborate treatises on the same subject would possess the same merit or offer as much instruction. These discussions are in the nature of personal testimony, given by witnesses, from the fresh fund of their own experience, and therefore they are not less valuable than they are reliable.

NEW EENGLAND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The New England Agricultural Society is to hold its regular annual meeting in the Hall of the *Ploughman* Building on the 1st of February, at 11 A. M. A very full attendance is invited and confidently expected. The meeting is to make choice of officers and transact all business belonging to it, including the discussion and disposal of all matters of interest that may properly come up. After a successful existence of twenty-two years, the unbroken harmony of the Society in everything pertaining to the true interests of agriculture is a sufficient testimonial to the sterling character of its elements and purposes. The men who took active part in its organization have been closely associated with it in its operations to this day,—a fact that speaks volumes for the healthiness of the Society and the steady enlargement of its influence throughout the great farming community. Its work cannot have been other than a success to have kept it in its present sound and strong condition after so many years. Its annual meeting therefore becomes an event in the annals of current agricultural experience.

What has been said of it many times may be repeated without taking from the force of the statement, that it is the one active agricultural influence, central yet movable, which is felt by turns in every State of New England. Its office has been to inspire the agricultural societies of each State in turn for fresh endeavors on the road to progress, to stimulate the indifferent and lagging organizations, to give a practical lift to the regular State exhibitions year by year, and to infuse the greatest possible amount of energy, enterprise, and spirit into their organizations. That it has done its work well the history of the several State agricultural exhibitions for the past score of years amply attests. And here in Massachusetts, obedient to its healthy influence, a new State Society has been formed and has held a brilliant and impressive exhibition, that promises great things for the future of Massachusetts agriculture. The approaching meeting of the New England Society finds the situation one of life and promise on all sides, and the cause of agriculture in a state of rapid and welcome advancement.

THE CORNERING BUSINESS.

Since the recent discussion by Judge Daniels of the State Supreme Court, in New York City, in a case of cornering lard, that the business is no more than "respectable robbery," the public press is taking up the subject in the serious spirit it is well calculated to excite. Cornering, or pooling, is simply the combination of a few persons to control the market, by first getting a monopoly of the supply, locking it out of the market, and forcing up prices until the greed of the conspiring monopolists is satisfied. In this way wheat, meat, coal, flour, lard, and various other necessaries of life are kept out of the reach of consumers except at the prices which the monopolists choose to demand of them. Rich and poor, high and low, must all alike submit to their heartless exactions. The purpose of these brigands of speculators is to make money, and only that. They do not care who goes hungry or cold, so long as they add to their accumulations by the general suffering.

In the case of wheat, a few wealthy speculators resolve to control the wheat market, and in order to do it they agree to buy millions of bushels of wheat. They may not buy it at all, and oftener do not. Having got control of the market, they proceed to put up prices beyond the normal market quotations. As they have got the wheat into their own hands, they hold back what is needed to supply the actual demands in order to sustain the enforced prices. The latter become artificial at once, and the market is demoralized. The smaller buyers and the millers are compelled to submit to the exactions of the speculators. Trade is disturbed and regular industry is injuriously affected. The dealers and millers, who are living on contracts made on the basis of such market fluctuations as are at all times to be looked for, find themselves heavy losers in consequence. But the great army of suffering victims are the bread-winners and bread-eaters.

The auiller has to pay more now for his wheat, and consequently has to ask more for his flour. Hence the baker must put up the price of his bread, inasmuch as he has to pay more for his flour. And so every family that buys a loaf of bread, and every laboring man or woman who buys a few pounds of flour has to pay a larger price for it than he or she otherwise would; that is, has to pay for one of the chief necessaries of life more than it is worth, and simply to help enrich a few extortioners.

It is precisely the same way with coal. A few railroad companies that happen to be situated so as to have the power form a combination to control the coal production. By the same methods they keep down the amount of coal used for a certain period, and thereby restrict or forbid its sale in obedience to the constant demand. They seek to create a coal famine in order to force up prices and compel consumers to empty their money into their own already stuffed pockets. Production for the time being limited, of course the supply runs short. Hence there is not a single person who is unaccustomed to lay in a stock of coal during the summer or fall, that is not pinched for fuel to keep warm and to cook by. Besides this, thousands of miners have to submit to reduced wages in consequence of diminished production, or are driven from work to sheer idleness. There could not well be a more cruel treatment of innocent persons in both cases. All consumers alike are placed in the undesirable position of tribute payers to the extortioners who are thus able to put their hands into the pockets of their victims. But the case is always the hardest for the needy wage earners, for the families who live as best they can in tenement houses, for hard-working washerwomen, all of whom have to buy their coal by the pailful or the basket because they never can get enough money together to buy it in larger quantities.

The poor, in fact, are the real victims of these respectable robbers. They are the ones least able to stand the pressure of the demand made on them The burglar and the highway robber robs only those who have something to lose and are therefore better able to stand this loss; but the robbing speculator who gets up a corner in the necessaries of life actually pulls fortunes out of the pockets of poor working people, and feels no compunctions at the process. People who have to toil early and late, who are struggling for a bare subsistence, are summarily called on to hand over the little remnants of their earnings and savings to swell the aims of unscrupulous and unfeeling speculators. It is a wrong that cannot easily be compressed within the limits of a definition. It almost surpasses description. Well may the judge referred to characterize it as "respectable robbery."

He said much more than this respecting it. He declared that the law would not sanction this sort of combination to put up the prices of the necessaries of life to consumers. "It will not," he said, "permit parties owning property and contemplating the purchase or sale of more of it to, combine together to keep it off the market and oblige the public to pay a larger price for the article than it would otherwise bring. Such a combination is an unlawful conspiracy, punishable as a crime." We should be glad to see it actually punished in some other way than by simply declaring contracts thus entered into for the purpose of robbing the public invalid. It is time that the people were rescued from merciless speculators and conspiring corporations, that would take their money at the expense of life itself.

NEW TAXATION QUESTION.

An order was offered last week in the lower house of the Massachusetts Legislature, concerning discrimination in taxation in favor of corporations which divide a part of their profits with their employees, which promises to call out a large amount of discussion. It is a movement for the substitution of the principle of co-operation for the wage system, since it will make it for the advantage of employers to give to their workmen an interest in their business. On the other hand, it is asked what right the State has to discriminate between different parties in the same class of tax-payers. In thus allowing a rebate of taxes to the favored corporations, as the bill proposes, it encourages them to deal liberally with their workmen, but by lessening their taxes a deficiency is created which must be compensated for in some other way. Therefore others, in no way interested perhaps, would be called on to pay for the benefit bestowed upon such partially co-operative concerns. And, furthermore, a temptation would be offered to corporations to exclude with their employees in the matter. For instance, they could give their workmen a share of profits while reducing wages correspondingly. The same measure was in the committee room last winter, but never got further, and it is hardly expected now that it will pass. It will be thoroughly torn up in debate.

NO BANK NOTES.

The rapid retirement of Government bonds, which form the basis of bank circulation, is causing increased discussion of the question that concerns the issue of currency by the banks, many people holding unqualifiedly that the legitimate business of local banks is not to supply a circulating medium for any and all parts of the country, and that the national government may just as well issue treasury notes direct as to do that in part, and guarantee the bank notes for the remainder. Perhaps the issue of silver notes, which meets with such unmistakable favor, may pave the way to the final relinquishment of further issues by the banks and the assumption of the sole authority by the government. The original object of compelling the banks to purchase government bonds and issue circulation upon them, was to create a market for the bonds of the United States. There is no longer any necessity for it. Good bank men are able to see no objection to the government's giving to banks the privilege of becoming members of the national association without issuing circulation or depositing bonds, but subject to all the other provisions.

This question of the future of banking in the United States, says Bradstreet's, continues to be the chief topic of interest to students of finance and the currency. The conditions of the problem have now come to be pretty well understood. The alternative reached seems to be, either the maintenance of the present national banking system with the note circulation feature,—at least for a time,—or the continuance of the system without circulation, or the retirement of the system in favor of the state banking system. It is the first of these three which at present commands the most attention. It is not yet satisfactorily established in all minds that legislation establishing national banks without circulation would be strictly constitutional; while, on the other hand, the disposition to return to the state banking system is far from being a growing one.

A number of expedients have been suggested for temporarily continuing the existing system. One is to refund the outstanding United States bonds into bonds bearing a lower rate of interest and having a longer time to run, and making them the basis of circulation. Another is to substitute other securities than United States bonds as a basis for note circulation. And still another is to enlarge the limit of circulation allowed the banks upon the bonds deposited by them. The latter was the suggestion offered by ex-Secretary Sherman in his letter read at the recent meeting of the Boston Merchants' Association. His practical point was to extend the bank circulation by allowing the banks to issue on the basis of the market value of Government bonds, instead of upon their face value. Senator Sherman thinks the Government at present demands a security out of all proportion to the obligation secured. His idea is that the amount of circulation allowed should be ninety per cent. of the market value of the bonds.

There is a difference of opinion on the subject of refunding the bonds at a lower rate of interest and making the new bonds the basis of circulation. Some are unwilling to see the time for the payment of the public debt postponed, even at a reduced rate of interest. As to the substitution of other securities for United States bonds as a basis for the note circulation of the banks, there is more harmony of opinion, and it appears to be generally agreed that no other form of security is an adequate basis of national banking. Ex-Comptroller Knox, in an article in the North American Review, discusses the alternative of continuing the national banking system without the feature of note circulation, and he plainly looks to the retirement of their circulation by such of the national banks as do not wish for it. He admits that the issue of circulation by the banks has ceased to be profitable, and under present laws has become a burden to many of them. So long ago as in 1873 he recommended the organization of national banks without circulation. Senator Sherman introduced and earnestly advocated such a bill, expressing the opinion that Congress had the power to organize such banks.

UNEASY EUROPE.

The present disquietude that prevails in Europe is the topic of common remark. While assurances of continued peace are repeated from the different continental capitals, the clouds are gathering from every quarter and darkening the sky with gloomy presages of war. The speech of Bismarck last week in the German Reichstag caused a sensation at Vienna that was almost equal to the effect of a war bulletin. It was insulting to France in a studied degree, and is not likely to be soon forgotten. If Germany really wants to renew the bloody contest with France, she will have to count on a very different spirit from the foe she overwhelmed with such loss in 1870. She must expect to encounter the people of France themselves almost in a body, and this time fully prepared not only to defend their country against invasion but to vindicate their prowess in arms.

The rumors that were prevalent respecting an alliance between the three emperors, or Germany, Austria, and Russia, are alternately contradicted and reaffirmed, according to the pulsation of the common feeling. What sort of a combination it could be, considering that the sole question at issue is the Balkan territory, it would be difficult to say. The probabilities are much greater that any such coalition would leave out Austria and include Turkey. It is very far from being inferable from Bismarck's speech that he would oppose the march of Russia to Constantinople, to which Austria would object about equally with Turkey herself. It may not be possible to forecast the action of cabinets and ministers from the changing utterances of the journals, yet one cannot help being impressed, from reading the extracts taken from them, with the fact that the different European powers are all apprehending war and are really making ready for it.

Germany has warned all German residents in Belgium to hold themselevs in readiness to join their respective army corps, and has forbidden Frenchmen belonging to the territorial army to remain longer than a few days in Alsace-Lorraine. France is asking for more money to buy improved rifles and to extend and strengthen her defences. She feels that Germany is impatient to deal her another blow, and if possible a fatal one. A Berlin despatch to the London Times lets out the fear in expressing the belief that war may yet be averted; but it is compelled to admit that Europe is on the eve of the recurrence of the conflict "era" that preceded the Danish and Austrian campaigns. England is reported to have mobilized two army corps, and to have begun the preparations for forming the third. The calling up of the army and navy reserves and auxiliary forces looks as if she believed the situation was fast becoming serious.

THE CURRENT COAL TROUBLES.

Those who laid in their winter's store of coal in the summer or fall now congratulate themselves on their good luck, if not their sagacity. The extensive strike among the coal handlers at the points of water shipment has caused grave apprehensions of a coal famine here at the East, if the strike were to continue long enough. But the situation in this respect is not so threatening as was at first feared. There is no danger of a coal famine, but high prices for coal are an assured certainty; and it is openly given out that, once having been forced up, it will be a difficult matter to get them down again. The upward movement is always an easier one than its opposite.

A well-informed dealer in Boston says there is coal enough in the city to last a month, by practicing economy. People naturally become alarmed, and run to the coal dealers, begging to be accommodated, and willingly paying the highest prices for enough to carry them through the winter. Should the strike collapse all at once, they would do likewise. Corporations and owners of steamers are at the present time literally begging the dealers to sell them coal; and the dealers answer that they cannot meet the demands by reason of their limited supply. They tell the owners of steamers they had better take their vessels round to New York and buy coal there; that it is impossible to buy it here for less than five and a half or six dollars per ton, at the lowest; and that, in fact, they would rather not sell at all.

This alarms the ship owner. He must have coal, and he tells the dealer so, and carelessly remarks that the price really makes no such great difference. Finally the dealer makes a show of commiserating him, and as a favor agrees to let the applicant have say twenty-five tons at a round price. The latter then pleads for seventy-five or a hundred tons more at the same price, and before he goes away he secures it, thinking himself extremely fortunate. The point with the dealer is to make the customer think he gets a favor every time, even while he is paying for it besides, and paying high figures.

There is no question that dealers are justified in advancing prices, otherwise their stocks would soon be exhausted. And it cannot be fairly said that they are not justified in taking advantage of the situation, anomalous though it be. They know they cannot replace their present stocks at the old rates. Nevertheless, there is such a practice as extortion to be guarded against, and those who practice it expose themselves to the risk of losing many of their best permanent customers. The latest intelligence a that the large coal companies are making vigorous preparations to break up the strike at once.

THE POULTRY EXHIBITION.

The Massachusetts Poultry Association whose organization dates back to 1871 and whose series of exhibitions forms a notable history in the rise and growth of the poultry interests of the State and country, is holding another of its great exhibitions this week in Mechanics' Building, in this city. The arrangements for it have been made on a most liberal scale, surpassing anything hitherto attempted by the Society. It is well worth a trip to Boston from all quarters of New England to see so full and so famous a collection of farm birds, necessary to the domestic economy, favorite companions in the yard and about the door, and a source of living profit to a far larger degree than most people who keep fowls themselves generally believe.

The raising of thoroughbred poultry, not merely for technical or fancy points but for the development of a most attractive industry, is a subject that is worthy to engage the attention of any agriculturist, let his landed resources be of the most limited character. Mechanics' Hall, than which there is no larger or finer building in New England for the purposes of such an exhibition, is both populous and clamorous with the feathered representatives that are assembled for the display of their distinctive merits. The doors were opened at nine o'clock on Wednesday morning, and are to be closed at ten o'clock in the evening of each day of the exhibition, which continues during the entire week. The list of entries is a longer and fuller one than has ever been seen in this country. The entire Union sends its choicest exhibits, the far South alone excepted. Among the modern breeds which attract universal attention from the visitors are the popular Wyandottes and Plymouth Rocks. The display of Hamburgs is one of wonderful excellence, and the game fowl is to be seen in all the glory of his erected courage and challenging spirit.

No more varied, attractive, and really desirable show than this one of domestic fowl is to be seen to-day anywhere on the American continent. Such a congress of birds is enough to decide wavering minds at once in favor of a country life. From the strutting and shrill-voiced bantam to the turkeys and the geese that suggest tables of plenty and good cheer, the assemblage ranges through all the known gradations of fowl life in a state of domestication. Peacocks and pigeons, ducks and geese are crowded in with the recognized branches of the poultry family in the most charming confusion of studied arrangement. The effect produced on the visitor entering the exhibition hall for the first time is indescribable. He feels as if he had found home and plenty at last, and that all his favorites were around him to make him enjoy the sensation of comfort.

Such an exhibition as this one deserves to be thronged with visitors from its opening to its closing hours. It is full of interest and instruction for every one. Foreign countries teach us a lesson in regard to the value of the poultry interest, where it is cultivated to its utmost limit of profit. The statistics of the poultry business in France and Belgium are a surprise as often as they are presented. Our country surpasses these, however, in the conditions favorable to poultry breeding and the production of eggs, and its markets need not be considered limited in any direction. The day has finally come when the shows of domestic fowls are regulated far more by the productive value of the breeds exhibited than by any of the recognized points merely by the fanciers.

THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

The trustees of the State Agricultural College had their annual meeting at the State House, Boston, Thursday forenoon, Jan. 13, Governor Ames presiding. Officers for the ensuing year were elected as follows: President, Governor Ames; vice president, Hon. James S. Grinnell; secretary, George Noyes; treasurer, F. E. Page; auditor, Henry Colt; committee on finance and buildings, Messrs. Daniel Needham, James S. Grinnell, J. H. Demond, Henry Colt and George Noyes; committee on course of study and faculty, Messrs. H. H. Goodell, T. P. Root, Arthur A. Brigham and William H. Bowker; committee on farm and horticultural department, Messrs. John E. Russell, Phineas Steadman, William R. Sessions, Joseph A. Harwood and E. W. Wood. Mr. J. H. Demond and Mr. T. P. Root were chosen members of the board of control.

It was voted to spend $200 for newspaper advertising of the college for the next six months. It was voted to capitalize the accumulation of interest from the Whiting Street fund and make it a part of the fund, and that hereafter the income of the fund be at the disposition of the faculty of the college for scholarships for poor students. The recommendations of the finance committee show assets of $14,398 for the ensuing six months and appropriations asked for of $11,799. It was voted to increase the treasurer's salary $200, making it $600, from March 1, 1887. It was voted to refer the matter of the library fund, by the governor and president of the college, to the attorney general, with all the original papers, for his decision.

The following resolutions offered by Col. Needham were adopted unanimously.

Marshall P. Wilder.

Resolved, That in the death of Marshall P. Wilder this Board of Trustees was met with an irreparable loss; —the loss of a man who gave himself and his means readily, heartily and continuously to the great interests of elevating agricultural labor to be the peer of professional labor in the most prominent departments of human industry; a man who sought to secure for the people interested in agriculture, the highest intellectual training, and to so dignify the labor of the husbandman as to make it attractive to the largest minds by a development not only of its kinship to the highest qualities of man's nature, but by illustrating its immense scope by marking necessary gleanings from the entire field of science as essential to a perfect, practical and economic working of the relation of the man to the soil, and that he has erected an imperishable monument in books, in shrubs and flowers, in trees and in institutions for the benefit and elevation of his fellows written and wrought by his own mind and hand.

Resolved, That in Marshall P. Wilder we recognize the first American advocate of the Agricultural College, and that by his public and private efforts the foundation was laid which culminated in the National act, which, under the leadership of Hon. Justin S. Morrill, brought forth by national legislation the Agricultural College as it now exists in the several States of the Union.

Resolved, That added to his great devotion to the cause of agricultural knowledge and intellectual and practical development we recognize in him, under all circumstances, whether of triumph or temporary defeat, the earnest Statesman and the true-hearted, generous man who never failed to so recognize humanity, that side by side on the same broad platform of citizenship and manhood, the humblest laborer was elevated and made an equal as he listened in the field or the lecture room to his words of counsel and judgment.

Resolved, That we feel that no language of ours can express the great loss we feel in his demise and that we tender our heart-felt sympathy to his bereaved family.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family of the deceased and inscribed upon the records of the Trustees of the College.

William Knowlton.

Resolved, That in the death of William Knowlton the Trustees have lost a most efficient worker, and the College a friend who was always ready with his voice and means to contribute to its welfare and development.

Resolved, That in the hearty and cordial support continuously given by our departed associate we recognize a man who, hampered by disease and suffering for many years with excessive pain triumphed over his great physical disabilities in a manly recognition of his public obligations to the sacrifice of his personal ease.

Resolved, That we mourn his loss and direct the Secretary to forward a copy of these resolutions to the family of the deceased and spread the same on the records.

BAY STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

First Annual Meeting.

The first annual meeting of the Bay State Agricultural Society since its incorporation was held Jan. 19 at the United States Hotel. After the roll-call of life members, President Burnett made his report, saying in substance that he advocates a conservative policy, and with the good beginning he believes much can be accomplished in the interest of agriculture. He favors of holding of exhibitions in one place rather than going from one town or city to another, and advocates the purchasing of permanent grounds in Boston. In his opinion the society does not want to cooperate with any other similar organization, but to stand on its own ground. He suggests amending the constitution by which all future annual assessments may be done away with, and having none by life members, making the fee payable in consecutive payments. In the horse department he suggests increasing the interest among the younger men interested in horses, and to enlist them in making up the premium list and arranging exhibitions of amateur riding and driving, doing away with all outside professional exhibitions. In the dairy department he would have two distinct features—one the dairy products, and the other the working dairy; the fitting up and power to be paid for by the exhibitors. A careful revision of the poultry premium list is suggested, and the adoption of the rules and regulations of the national organizations and the selection of the best expert judges, avoiding as much as possible local ones. He further suggests holding the exhibition for one week, beginning on Thursday and closing the following Wednesday. In electing officers he suggests the selection of men of ability willing to devote time to the work rather than men of prominence.

Secretary Winslow S. Lincoln made a brief report, reviewing the fair held last fall. Treasurer J. D. W. French in his report gives the receipts as follows: Membership, $1856.72; Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture, $2130; admission to fair, $30,891.35; sale of catalogues, $194.50; rentals of privileges, $614.57; compost sold, $135; Boston Herald, special prize, $80; New England Farmer, special prize, $5; J. Burnett, special prize, $50. The expenses, including premiums, $9362; hay and grain, $1720; rent of Mechanics' Hall, $1485.65; advertising, $1979.24; printing and stationery, $2312.45; construction of stalls, etc., $5758.26. Total, $33,010.10. Balance on hand, $2960.04.

The election of officers resulted as follows:

President, Edward Burnett, Southboro; vice-presidents, Worcester County, Josiah H. Walker, Worcester; Franklin County, Smith Harding, South Deerfield; Middlesex County, W. W. Rawson, Arlington; Hampden County, W. R. Sessions, South Wilbraham; Plymouth County, Elbridge Cushman, Bridgewater; Berkshire County, Merritt I. Wheeler, Great Barrington; Suffolk County, W. J. Bolster, Boston; Norfolk County, A. W. Cheever, Dedham; Hampshire County, J. H. Demond, Northampton; Essex County, J. Henry Hill, Amesbury; Dukes County, H. G. Norton, Tisbury; Nantucket County, R. E. Burgess, Nantucket; Bristol County, Joseph Gibbs, Somerset; secretary, Winslow S. Lincoln, Worcester; assistant secretaries, Henry L. Shumway, Worcester, B. C. Bragg, Springfield; treasurer, J. D. W. French, Andover.

There was also elected a board of trustees of representatives of each county in the State.

President Burnett was elected delegate to the annual meeting of the state board of agriculture.

In accordance with the recommendations of the president the constitution was amended providing that all persons who have paid $1 as an annual assessment shall be made a life member on the payment of $4 before July 1, 1887, and those who have paid $2 shall be life members on the payment of $3 before July 1.

The following letter was read by the president:—

BOSTON, Jan. 15, 1887.

Mr. E. Burnett, President Bay State Agricultural Society—Dear Sir: It is my pleasant duty to inform you that at a meeting of the Massachusetts Society for Promoting Agriculture, held yesterday, it was voted "to guarantee the premiums to be offered by the Bay State at their coming show in 1887 to the amount or $10,000, and also to offer $2500 to special premiums provided the exhibition be held in Boston," I am truly,

E. F. BOWDITCH, Recording Secretary.

It was voted that the next exhibition be held in Boston, and on a motion to hold the 1888 fair in Springfield a lengthy discussion took place. Mr. Graves of Springfield, in behalf of the citizens of that city, extended an invitation to the society to hold its fair in Springfield in 1888. It was finally agreed to lay the matter on the table, and on motion of Mr. Bowditch the thanks of the society were extended to the city of Springfield for their invitation, with the regret that the society is not in a position at the present time to decide the matter. It was then voted that all invitations to hold the fairs of the society outside of Boston be referred to the executive committee with instructions to report at the next annual meeting.

☞ The milk record of the Ayrshire herd of Charles H. Hayes & Son, of Hayes Farm, Portsmouth, N. H., for 1886, goes to show that the Ayrshire cow is the cow for profit in New England. The best five cows' average of milk yield for the year was within a fraction of ten quarts a day; and the best ten cows' average yield for the year was 8.5-16 quarts a day. The record is a most interesting one to read.

☞ *The Clark's Cove Guano Co.'s Calendar* for 1887, is a unique card, with leaflet attachment, printed in blue colorings, and containing a wonderful variety of conveniently arranged and ingeniously selected matter.

☞ *Parker & Wood*, 49 North Market street, Boston, issue a fine Catalogue, with a wintrily illustrated cover, of their varied and large collection of ice tools, which will be sent on application. Their factory is at Arlington, Mass. One is greatly surprised to find so many tools employed in this business, all of which the ice-cutters need.

☞ *The Transactions* of the American Horticultural Society are published in volumes at large expense to the Society, a few surplus copies still remaining in the hands of the Secretary, which will be sent, to any address, free, for $1.00 each, or $2.50 for the complete set. The Society will hold its next session at Cleveland, O., Sept. 7th, 1887. W. H. Ragan, Sec'y Greencastle, Ind.

☞ *Poultry Supplies* constitute a leading feature, at this season, with the house of *Parker & Wood*, 49 North Market street, being held in immense stock for instant delivery. Their many other timely articles, especially implements, are hinted of in their advertisement in another column.

☞ *The Phrenological Calendar* is the newes design in the line of calendars, consisting of a beautifully lithographed Phrenological Head, engraved on stone and printed in colors, showing the location of each of the phrenologics faculties, with their natural action, which is indicated by illustrations. A monthly calendar is attached.

☞ For seasonable goods in the farming line the well-known agricultural warehouse of *C. H. Thompson & Co.*, 80 and 82 South Market street and 34 Merchants Row, commands general attention. Their announcement in another column is well worth the reading by all persons concerned in farming pursuits.

☞ *Hood's Calendar Almanac* for 1887 is a very neat little affair, illustrated with pretty colored pictures, and conveying much practical information. It is handy for use on the desk or table.

☞ *Geo. Tyler & Co.*, dealers in Agricultural Machinery, have removed from No. 80 to No 43 South Market street, Boston, the store formerly occupied by T. B. Everett & Co., where they enjoy more numerous facilities for their rapidly increasing business. They carry a much enlarged line of specialties, which comprise the farmer's entire outfit of machinery. All the machines handled by this house are from manufacturers of experience and high repute, and their selections of stock are made with the greatest care.

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—Stanley, of African fame, is to-day acknowledged to be the greatest living explorer. He has recently been presented with the freedom of the city of London.

—Gen. Hazen, chief signal officer of the United States Army, died in Washington very suddenly last Sunday evening.

—The Quincy, Mass. druggists having agreed to sell no liquors even on physicians' prescriptions, Mr. Henry H. Faxon has written a letter to each of the nine physicians of the town, saying that he shall be pleased to have him procure at his expense an assortment o pure liquors, at a cost not exceeding $75, and use the same among his patients, without charge, whenever he may feel justified in giving a prescription for liquor.

"OH! BUT I SALIVATED HIM!"

was the actual exclamation of an honest physician, spoken of one of his patients to whom he had given calomel for the cure of biliousness and a diseased liver. And he had *salivated him for certain*, from which he never recovered All these distressing consequences are avoided by the use of Dr. Pierce's "Pleasant Purgative Pellets," a purely vegetable remedy that will not salivate, but produces the most pleasing effect, invigorate the liver cure headache, dyspepsia, biliousness, constipation and piles. By druggist.

—The Franklin Typographical Society of Boston celebrated the 181st anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin, and the 63rd anniversary of the Society, by a dinner at the United States Hotel.

☞ FEMALE HELP Wanted—Thousands of shop girls and sales women who suffer from Weak Back and side ache to apply a *Hop Plaster* and note the immediate relief. Strengthens and braces up the weak parts. Sold everywhere. 25 cts.

—Mr. W. H. Baldwin, President of the Young Men's Christian Union of Boston, has been quite ill since the middle of December.

☞ Rheumatism is primarily caused by acidity of the blood. Hood's Sarsaparilla purifies the blood, and thus cures the disease.

— Snow slides in Colorado are reported to have caused a number of deaths and much destruction of late.

☞ POND'S EXTRACT has won a great reputation for forty years, curing cases of acute pain. *Spurious imitations are dear at any price.*

—The statue by Miss Whitney of Leif, the Norseman, is now finished in bronze. It is of heroic size, and with the pedestal will be eighteen feet high. It is to be set up in Boston at the Junction of Commonwealth Avenue and West Chester Park, at the head of the new pleasure ground of the Back Bay.

WHAT "OLD FRITZ" SAID.

It was an aphorism of Frederick the Great's that "Facts are divine things." An undisputed fact is that Dr. Pierce's "Golden Medical Discovery" is the most powerful liver vitalizer extant, and by its characteristic and searching action will cure dyspepsia, constipation, dropsy, kidney disease, sick-headache, and other maladies which, pursuing their insidious course unwithstanding, are directly traceable to a diseased condition of the liver, by which its work as purifier of the blood is made incompiete. All druggists.

— It is understood that the new treaty with China excludes Chinese coolies from this country for thirty years, and, as it is a reciprocity treaty, in the same way excludes American laborers from China.

☞ Readers of your paper who will send their full name and P. O. address to the Ermine Safe Manufacturing Company Limited, P. O. Box 2241, New York, will be furnished, free of charge, a pamphlet on "How to make the Best Butter" by a prominent Dairy Authority, in beautifully lithographed cover, showing portraits in colors of the famous Jersey cow "Oaklands Cora."

— The Dominion Parliament, it is alleged on good authority, will be dissolved, and elections will be held February 22d.

AN INVENTOR'S ADVICE.

George Stevenson when advising young men how to get on would finish by saying "Be a Improver and development." For fifteen years he plodded and worked before giving the finishing touches to his locomotive. In as many days those persevering in the use of Dr. Pierce's "Golden Medical Discovery," have experienced great relief and found themselves on the high road to health. Liver complaints, impure blood, chronic lung diseases and many others yield to its healing influences never to return. All druggists.

—Forty-two years ago a man with a helper could only weave seven yards of Brussels carpet in a day, now a girl can weave fifty yards in a day.

CATARRH CURED.

A clergyman, after years of suffering from that loathsome disease, Catarrh, and vainly trying every known remedy, at last found a prescription which completely cured and saved him from death. Any sufferer from this dreadful disease sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to Dr. Lawrence, 212 East 9th St., New York, will receive the receipt free of charge. sept4–15t–cow

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BOSTON, Jan. 15, 1887.

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E. F. BOWDITCH, Recording Secretary.

—The venerable simplicity and quaint poetry of the modern Christmas are compounded of the Saxon Yuletide and the German Santa Claus.

Following is an extract from a letter written by Prof. Oscar R. Gleason, the world's greatest horse educator:—

PHILADELPHIA, May 18, 1886.

I want you to ship me half a dozen bottles of Tuttle's Elixir for family use. I have used a great number of liniments, but Tuttle's is far ahead of anything it has been my lot to use.

PROF. O. R. GLEASON,
McCall's Opera House,
Formerly at Highland Rink, Boston.

When Baby was sick, we gave her Castoria,
When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria,
When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria,
When she had Children, she gave them Castoria.

oct30–3t2t

DYSPEPSIA—Its Causes and Cure, sent free by J. H. McAlvin, Lowell, Mass., 1 yr. City Treas. oct16–52t

MARRIAGES.

In this city, Jan. 12, by Rev. T. J. B. House, Mr. W. Fred Cove of Cambridgeport and Miss Maud L. Burd of Boston.

In this city, Jan. 1, by Rev. S. H. Winkley and Rev. Edward E. Hale, D. D., William Howell Reed to Grace Evelyn, daughter of Elisha Atkins.

In this city, Jan. 15, by Rev. S. S. Winchester, John Morgan to Sarah Sprout.

In this city, Jan. 11, by Rev. O. P. Gifford, Samuel Gamble to Martha R. Robinson, both of Boston.

In this city, Jan. 13, by Rev. L. W. Saltonstall, Arthur F. Warren to Abbie Gunnison.

In Malden, Jan. 16, by Rev. Willis P. Odell, David P. Cox to Lottie Scales.

In Wakefield, Mass., Jan. 12

POND'S EXTRACT
VEGETABLE PAIN DESTROYER

Hemorrhages. Bleeding from the Lungs, Stomach, Nose, or from any cause is speedily controlled and stopped.

Sores, Ulcers, Wounds, Sprains and Bruises. It is cooling, cleansing and **Healing.**

Catarrh. It is most efficacious for this disease, Cold in the Head, &c. Our "Catarrh Cure," is specially prepared to meet serious cases. Our Nasal Syringe is simple and inexpensive.

Rheumatism, Neuralgia. No other preparation has cured more cases of these distressing complaints than the Extract. Our Plaster is invaluable in these diseases, Lumbago, Pains in Back or Side, &c.

Diphtheria & Sore Throat, for the Extract promptly. Delay is dangerous.

Piles, Blind, Bleeding or Itching. It is the greatest known remedy; rapidly curing when other medicines have failed. Our Ointment is of great service where the removal of clothing is inconvenient.

For Broken Breast and Sore Nipples. Mothers who used The Extract will never be without it. Our Ointment is the best emollient that can be applied.

Female Complaints. In the majority of female diseases the Extract can be used, as is well known, with the greatest benefit. Full directions accompany each bottle.

CAUTION.

Pond's Extract Has been imitated, but the genuine has the words "Pond's Extract" blown in the glass, and our picture trade-mark on surrounding buff wrapper. None other is genuine. Always insist on having **Pond's Extract.** Take no other preparation. *If druggist will not supply you, do not be persuaded to buy what you want, but send 50 cents and we will forward, prepaid, a bottle, by express.*

Sold everywhere. Prices, 50c., $1, $1.75.

Prepared only by POND'S EXTRACT CO., NEW YORK AND LONDON.

jy17 1yr reading

FITS STOPPED FREE
Nervousness. Insane Persons Restored by Dr. KLINE'S GREAT NERVE RESTORER. Only sure CURE. Fits stopped free. Epilepsy or Falling Sickness a lifelong study. Treatise and $1 trial bottle free to Fit patients, sent by express. Address Dr. KLINE, 931 Arch St., Phila., Pa. Give express and P.O. address in full. Beware of IMITATING FRAUDS.

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Through Trains with Dining Cars, Pullman Palace Sleeping Cars, Modern Coaches. Sure connections in Union Depots at its terminal points, with trains from and to the East, West, North and South. Ticket Agents everywhere, for Quickest Route from Chicago, Peoria or St. Louis to
DENVER, SAN FRANCISCO, OMAHA, KANSAS CITY, CITY OF MEXICO.
For Time Cards, Maps, &c., apply to Ticket Agents of the Burlington Route, or address
T. J. POTTER, 2d V.P. & Gen'l Manager, CHICAGO. H. B. STONE, G. P. A. PAUL MORTON, G. M.
Illustrated Burlington Route Guide Book sent free to the U. P. & T. A., Chicago, Ill.

SMALL'S CALF FEEDER
SMALL & MATTHEWS, 21 South Market Street, BOSTON, MASS.

ELY'S CATARRH CREAM BALM.
ELY'S CREAM BALM CURES COLD CATARRH HAY-FEVER DEAFNESS HEADACHE
EASY TO USE
ELY BRO'S OWEGO N.Y. U.S.A.
HAY-FEVER
A particle is applied into each nostril and is agreeable to use. Price 50 cts. by mail or at druggists. Circular free. ELY BROTHERS, Druggists, Owego, N. Y. jan7—13

SEED POTATOES AND SEEDS
From the Famous ARCOSTOOK.

The great superiority of true Aroostook grown potatoes for seed is well known. Wherever planted they yield large crops of handsome tubers, free from all disease. And the short, quick season of this far north-east land makes all our seeds hardy, productive, and early.
My ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE will be sent FREE to all. Write for it.
GEORGE W. P. JERRARD, Caribou, Maine.
jan8 12t

IF YOU WANT BUTTER or CHEESE
to learn of something that will be very profitable to you by sending your name to H. L. BOWKER & CO., Manufacturing Chemists, 295 and 297 Frankfort Street, BOSTON, MASS. jan22—13t

FOR SALE. A LARGE PASTURE in the east part of Peterborough, N. H., on the Greenfield road, containing about 300 acres; well watered, fenced and divided by stone walls. It will keep a large stock. If not sold will be let. Apply to CHARLES ROBINSON, 209 Washington Street, Boston, Mass. jan8-17t

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
SUFFOLK, ss. PROBATE COURT.
To all persons interested in the Estate of MARGARET HARRIGAN, late of Boston, in said county, deceased.
Greeting.
WHEREAS, JAMES RILEY, executor of the last will of said deceased, has presented for allowance, the first account of his administration upon the estate of said deceased.
You are hereby cited to appear at a Probate Court to be holden at Boston, in said county of Suffolk, on the fourteenth day of February A. D. 1887, at ten o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any you have, why the same should not be allowed. And said executor is ordered to serve this citation by publishing the same once a week, for three successive weeks, in the Massachusetts Ploughman, a newspaper printed at said Boston, the last publication to be two days at least before said Court.
Witness, JOHN W. McKIM, Esquire, Judge of said Court, this seventeenth day of January, in the year one thousand eight hundred and eighty-seven.
ELIJAH GEORGE, Register.
jan22 3t

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
MIDDLESEX, ss. PROBATE COURT.
To all persons interested in the estate of GEORGE K. COOK, late of Stow, in said County, deceased.
Greeting.
WHEREAS, CHARLES C. COOK the Administrator of the estate of said deceased, has presented for allowance the first account of his administration upon the estate of said deceased.
You are hereby cited to appear at a Probate Court to be holden at Cambridge in said County, on the fourteenth day of January next, at nine o'clock in the forenoon, to show cause, if any you have, why the same should not be allowed. And said administrator is ordered to serve this citation by publishing the same once a week in the Massachusetts Ploughman, a newspaper printed at Boston, three days at least, before said Court.
Witness, GEORGE M. BROOKS, Esquire, Judge of said Court, this twenty-ninth day of December, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and eighty-six.
J. H. TYLER, Register.
jan8 3t

Wanted.
AN AMERICAN SINGLE MAN, not less than twenty-five years of age, to work on the Farm, and to assist in the management of boys and do general work about the house. Suitable and willing to work, but some practical knowledge of farming, with a tact for managing boys, and can furnish recommendations as to character, will secure a permanent situation about March 1st, 1887.
CHARLES A. JOHNSON, Supt.,
Plummer Farm School,
Salem, Mass.
jan22-3t

CUSHING'S MANUAL
OF PARLIAMENTARY PRACTICE.
Revised by HON. EDMUND L. CUSHING.
The standard authority in all the United States. An indispensable Handbook for every member of a deliberative body. Price 75c. For sale by bookselling everywhere, or sent by mail on receipt of price. Address the Publishers,
THOMPSON BROWN & CO., Boston, Mass.
jan8-4

READ AND RUN.

—Senator Dawes was re-elected Wednesday on the first joint ballot, the vote standing: Dawes, 181; Long, 26; Robinson, 57; Collins, 11; Russell, 1.

— A good deal of money has been made in England and continental Europe upon American securities, within the past three years.

— Official records show that in 1881, 17,341 persons were deprived of their rights as tenants in Ireland, and were, the most of them, absolutely thrown on the roadside.

— A recent lecturer on art says the thought behind the drawing is the main point to be aimed at in selecting pictures for the home.

— Dr. Jowett, master of Baliol College, Oxford, and renowned for his translations of Plato and Thucydides, recently uttered in public his protest against the present system of spending twelve or fourteen years in acquiring a very moderate knowledge of Greek and Latin, and urged that the study of modern languages should precede that of the classical, though not as a substitute for them.

— The adhesive stamp on a letter made correspondence easier; the ease of correspondence made its volume larger: the increased volume paved the way for cheaper rates. So the world received from the adhesive stamp one of the greatest practical benefits it has ever known.

— The nations of Europe, wasting their billions in the support of great standing armies, are accumulating national wealth very slowly. Their taxes eat up their profits.

— Nobody can complain that anything is lacking to make up a winter, this time.

— It is denied by an intimate friend of Mr. Blaine that the latter contemplates going to Europe.

— Ex-Vice President Wheeler is reported to be living strictly alone at his humble home at Malone, N. Y., his health being seriously impaired. Mr. Wheeler has survived his parents, brothers, sisters, and wife, and is childless, and without a near relative in the world.

— Hon. S. S. Cox is seriously ill at Washington. His system has been weakened by a long strain of overwork.

— The observation of the weather, it is freshly urged, should be divorced from military signalling. The whole country is interested in observations of the Weather Bureau. No branch of the public service enters more by its daily operations into the every-day life of the American people. The efficiency of the service would not be impaired by civil control and a purely scientific organization for meteorological observations.

— Governor Ames tried tobogganing on Corey Hill, Brookline, last Saturday evening.

— The title of Dr. O. W. Holmes's forthcoming series of articles describing his journey abroad, will be "One Hundred Days Abroad."

— Mrs. Logan is about to write for the magazines.

— Nathan Millett of Salem died last week, at the age of eighty-seven. He was in the Salem Custom House in 1845-6-7.

— The large Eliot Congregational Church at Newton was burned early on Sunday morning.

—Only fourteen out of ninety-three railroads in the country report decreased earnings for 1886 over those for 1885.

—In order to make the inter-state commerce bill odious and to secure its amendment, it is stated from Chicago that the Eastern railroads will immediately put into effect the long and short haul clause, and advance through rates to the seaboard on grain to sixty cents.

—Denver, Col., has been visited with a quarter of a million conflagration.

—A fatal dynamo explosion occurred in Providence last Saturday.

—Sam Jones, the revivalist preacher, began his revival meetings in Boston last Sunday, to be continued two weeks or more.

—The rent agitation in Ireland has assumed serious proportions.

—The action of Archbishop Corrigan of New York in removing Dr. McGlynn and placing in his stead Dr. Donnelly, has occasioned a most earnest protest from the congregation of St. Stephen's church.

—The tone of general business is buoyant and hopeful, in spite of many adverse influences.

— A gigantic scheme is said to be in process of accomplishment by the Knights of Labor for the general reorganization of all the coal miners and mine laborers of the United States, under one banner.

— General J. B. Fry declares the public school system of the United States to be a failure; that it has not improved morals; that it usurps ground that is rightly parental; and that it is a socialistic precedent. The public schools themselves, he said, are substituting for education a system of examining.

— Professor Foster of Iowa predicted last summer that this would be a cold winter with fluctuations of temperature; and now he advises the ice-men to lay in large stores of ice, as there will be a large demand for it next summer, and the winter following will not present such favorable opportunities for gathering ice.

—Boa constrictors are brought to this country to fill engagements just like other foreign stars. The only difference is, they are not interviewed on landing, and asked what they think of the country.

— Alderman McQuade of New York has at last gone to join Alderman Jachne at Sing Sing.

—During the current week, the United States Senate has considered the bill for the creation of agricultural experiment stations.

—A public meeting to consider the importance of industrial education in the common schools was held at the Institute of Technology in this city on Thursday of the present week Gentlemen of prominence in educational circles made addresses, and Gen. Francis A. Walker presided.

—The broadest minded naturalist studies animals for the sake of what they can tell him of the operation of those grand life-principles, or organic laws, which have peopled our globe with its myriad animal forms.

—A party numbering 129 persons started last Monday afternoon from Boston on a trip through the South and to interesting points in California. In addition to the baggage car, the Pullman Car Company supplied seven cars,—one dining car, two hotel cars, and four sleepers. The trip is to take the tourists through twenty-three States and Territories.

—The two diet kitchens of Boston are doing good work among the poor at this season.

—Last Sunday was the sleighing day of the season on the favorite roads leading out of Boston.

—One of the most extensive wolf drives ever had in the West came off in Illinois on Wednesday. The extent of territory surrounded comprised one whole township, where fifty or sixty wolves have been ravaging the sheep flocks. Fifteen hundred people took part in the chase.

—The inhuman practice of docking horses is openly condemned by horse men of high repute, and now the Mass. Prevention of Cruelty Society issues a printed circular, warning practitioners that they subject themselves to serious legal penalties. "Docking" is simply cutting off the sensitive parts of a horse's tail, and is a cruel operation, sometimes resulting fatally to the helpless animal. It deprives him forever of the natural means of protecting himself against insects, besides unnecessarily exposing the delicate parts beneath the tail. The circular of the Society disproves the assertions that it does not harm the animals and that it is necessary, and concludes with a timely citation from the statute that should deter all drivers of horses and all persons having them in charge from continuing so cruel and needless a practice.

— Although there is nothing like a coal famine, the price of coal is certainly up.

— Among other measures for the reform of the United States Consular service, that of raising the salaries of officers at important points is under consideration at Washington.

NUT TREES
SMALL FRUITS
RUSSIAN APRICOTS
Also all kinds of Nursery Stock: old kinds and novelties.
Inducements for ordering before March 1st. Send for free Catalogue at once.
GEO. R. KNAPP, GREENFIELD. MASS.
jan8—4teow

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LITHOGRAPH
Manufacturing Co.
181 Devonshire Street, BOSTON.
Lithographers,
Albertype & Photo-Lithographers
Metal & Glass Show Cards,
We will send to any address on receipt of 40 cents (in stamps) a box of 30 assorted sheets of
SCRAP PICTURES,
such as are usually retailed at *5 cents per sheet.* As we have but a limited quantity of these, which we are closing, immediate application will be necessary to secure any.
A thorough and economic means of advertising
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DIPLOMAS
—FOR—
AGRICULTURAL FAIRS.
oct22t

ON 30 DAYS' TRIAL
THIS NEW ELASTIC TRUSS.

Has a Pad different from all others, is cup shape, with Self-adjusting Ball in center, adapts itself to all positions of the body while the ball in the cup presses back the intestines just as a person does with the finger. Will light preserve the rupture? It will be held securely day and night, and a radical cure certain. It is easy, durable and cheap. Sent by mail. Circulars free. SUSPENSORY TRUSS CO., Chicago, Ill.
oct30—13teow

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CENTRIFUGAL-GOVERNOR
WINDMILL

Is the best working and most powerful. Windmill in the world, because it is the only one which unites the most perfect form of windwheel with the most perfect method of regulation. Geared Mills a specialty.
For Descriptive Circulars apply to
THE DANA WINDMILL CO., FAIRBANKS, MASS., U. S. A.
mh7eowtt

NEW CARDS, 40 Samples and AGENT'S Canvassing Outfit for 2c. stamp. CARD WORKS, Northford, Conn.
nov13—6teow

THE DINGEE & CONARD CO'S
BEAUTIFUL EVER-BLOOMING
ROSES
For 18 Years our Great Specialty has been growing and distributing ROSES. We have all the Latest Novelties and the *most standard sorts* in different sizes and prices to suit all. We send STRONG, Vigorous PLANTS safely by mail or express, and guarantee satisfaction. Everything to please. Every person sending for our New and Rare Flower Seeds, and tells how to grow them—FREE. Address THE DINGEE & CONARD CO., Rose Growers, West Grove, Chester Co. Pa.
jan8 10teow

CORN SHELLER.
Patented Nov. 23, 1886.
WONDERFULLY effective, durable and cheap. Manufactured by the patentee,
A. H. PATCH, CLARKSVILLE, TENN.
Separates corn from the Cob, and does perfect work. The best ever tested **Sheller made.** It may be seen in operation at
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Description and terms by mail if desired.
jan15-52t

VIRGINIA FARMS & MILLS For sale in Exchange. FREE Catalogues. L. B. CHAPPIN & CO., Richmond, Va.
jan15 13t

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HORSE POWER

MACHINES!
The most satisfactory machines in the market for
Threshing and Cleaning Grain
AND SAWING WOOD.
Acknowledged by all competent judges to be the most thoroughly reliable machines in the market, regarding easy draft, quantity and quality of work, and durability. Send for **48-page Pamphlet** giving full description and terms, **FREE.**
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PATENTEES AND SOLE MANUFACTURERS
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july3—tf

$8 OUTFIT FREE to introduce Hill's combination **Bag Truck, Step Ladder, Bucket Stool** and **Bag Holder,** suits the city. Lightning Bag Ties on earth. Send stamp for terms and territory. JAMES HILL, 47 H St., Wilkes Barre, Pa.
oct9—20t

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Staff of Eighteen Experienced and Skillful Physicians and Surgeons.
ALL CHRONIC DISEASES A SPECIALTY.—Patients treated here or at their homes. Many treated at home, through correspondence, as successfully as if here in person. Come and see us, or send ten cents in stamps for our "Invalids' Guide-Book," which gives all particulars. Address the INVALIDS' DISPENSARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, 663 Main St., Buffalo, N. Y.

OVER WORKED Women.
For "worn-out," "run-down," debilitated school teachers, milliners, seamstresses, housekeepers, and overworked women generally, Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription is the best of all restorative tonics. It is not a "Cure-all," but admirably fulfills a singleness of purpose, being a most potent Specific for all those Chronic Weaknesses and Diseases peculiar to women. The treatment of many thousands of such cases, at the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute has afforded a large experience in adapting remedies for their cure, and
Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription
is the result of this vast experience. For internal congestion, inflammation and ulceration, it is a Specific. It is a powerful general, as well as uterine, tonic and nervine, and imparts vigor and strength to the whole system. It cures weaknesses of stomach, indigestion, bloating, weak back, nervous prostration, exhaustion, debility and sleeplessness, in either sex. Favorite Prescription is sold by druggists under our positive *guarantee.* See wrapper around bottle.
PRICE $1.00, OR SIX BOTTLES FOR $5.00.
Send 10 cents in stamps for Dr. Pierce's large Treatise on Diseases of Women (160 pages, paper-covered). Address, WORLD'S DISPENSARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION, 663 Main Street, Buffalo, N. Y.

Pierce's Pleasant Purgative Pellets
LITTLE LIVER PILLS.
ANTI-BILIOUS and CATHARTIC.
SICK HEADACHE,
Bilious Headache, Dizziness, Constipation, Indigestion, and Bilious Attacks, promptly cured by Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Purgative Pellets. 25 cents a vial, by Druggists.
dec23—26teow

☞ The worst cases cured by Dr. Sage's Catarrh Remedy.

The Kemp Manure Spreader

The Kemp Spreader will save its cost on the farm sooner than any implement yet invented. No farmer can afford to do without it, and no farmer will do without it when he knows its benefits. It increases the crop by fine pulverization and equal distribution; makes the hardest and most disagreeable work the easiest, and hurries along the spring work.
LOOK AT OUR OFFER FOR THE SPRING OF 1887
As proof that we do not overstate its merits and that we mean just what we say. We will send a Spreader to any responsible farmer ON TRIAL. We will guarantee it to handle, pulverize and spread any and all manure on the farm, and do the work better than is possible to do it by hand. We do not ask the farmer to run any risk. We will take all the risk ourselves. If the Spreader fails to do all we recommend it to do, we will take it back and pay the freight both ways.
Send in the orders early and be ready for the spring work, and by all means send to us for descriptive circular. Manufactured by
THE RICHARDSON MANUFACTURING CO., WORCESTER, MASS.
jan22 tf

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—AND—
BUSINESS DIRECTORY
For 1887.
WITH MAP OF BOSTON.
A COMPLETE CITY GUIDE.
636 Pages. Price $1.00.
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Mailed promptly on Receipt of Price.
Also for sale by Booksellers generally.
dec25-11t

AGENTS COIN MONEY WHO SELL DR. Chase's Family Physician and Receipt Book. New and Improved Edition. Three Thousand sold in one month. Price $2.00 For particulars, address THE CHASE PUBLISHING CO., Toledo, Ohio.
feb20 52t

ASTHMA CURED
GERMAN ASTHMA CURE
Instantly relieves the most violent attack, and insures comfortable sleep. NO WAITING for RESULTS, being used by inhalation, its action is immediate, direct and certain, and a cure is the result in all curable cases. A single trial convinces the most skeptical. Price 50c. and $1.00 of any druggist, or by mail. Sample Free for stamp. Dr. R. SCHIFFMANN, St. Paul, Minn.
nov27—13t

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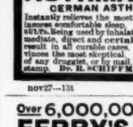
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D. M. FERRY & CO'S SEED ANNUAL For 1887 will be mailed FREE to all applicants, and to last season's customers without ordering. Indispensable to all. Every person sowing Garden, Field or Flower Seeds should send for it. Address D. M. FERRY & CO. Detroit, Mich.
jan1 13t

WEAK MEN!
Whose VITALITY is failing, Brain DRAINED and EXHAUSTED from EARLY FOLLY, WANT OF PEP may find a perfect and reliable cure in the FRENCH NERVE PILLS
originated by Prof. JEAN CUVELLE, of Paris, France. Adopted by all the French Academies and Hospitals, and successfully introduced here. All wasting losses and drains positively stopped. Circulars giving newspaper and medical endorsements, &c., FREE. Consultation (office or by mail) with str. gnest doctors in the CIVIALE AGENCY, No. 174 Fulton Street, New York.
jan1 52t

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GOOD NEWS TO LADIES.
Greatest inducements ever offered. Now is the time to get up orders for our celebrated Teas and Coffees, and secure a beautiful Gold Band or Moss Rose China Tea Set, Dinner Set, Gold Band Moss Rose Toilet Set, Watch, Brass Lamp, or Webster's Dictionary. For full particulars address
THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA CO.,
P. O. Box 289. 31 and 33 Vesey St., New York.
oct9—52t

I CURE FITS!
When I say I cure I do not mean merely to stop them for a time and then have them return again. I mean a radical cure. I have made the disease of FITS, EPILEPSY or FALLING SICKNESS a life long study. I warrant my remedy to cure the worst cases. Because others have failed is no reason for not now receiving a cure. Send at once for a treatise and a Free Bottle of my infallible remedy. Give Express and Post Office. It costs you nothing for a trial, and I will cure you.
Address Dr. H. G. ROOT, 183 Pearl St., New York.
dec4—30t

SALESMEN WANTED.
Salary or commission. Big chance. Stock guaranteed. STONE & WELLINGTON, nurserymen, Rochester, N. Y. oct16-15t

CATARRH SAMPLE TREATMENT FREE
To great n our faith we can cure you, cost of these, we will send enough to convince you. Dr. B. E. LAUDERBACK & Co., Newark, N. J.
sep25—21t

Best Harness in the World
For the money; largest stock and best variety in Boston; robes, blankets, horse and stable furnishings. E. F. WYER & CO., 63 Sudbury St., Boston.
nov13-13t

A RARE CHANCE
For Young Men.

THE MASSACHUSETTS AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE has at its disposal **Eighty Free Scholarships,** which will be given to worthy young men who can pass the entrance examination. It affords a thorough English education, and a good training in Chemistry, Botany, Natural History, Agriculture, Horticulture, Military, and other sciences, fitting young men to enter business or to study the professions, or to become good farmers or good teachers. For further particulars address President H. H. GOODELL, Amherst, Mass.
jy24tf

WE WANT YOU! a live energetic man or woman needing profitable employment to represent us in every county. Salary $75 per month and expenses, or a large commission on sales if preferred. Goods staple. Every one buys. Outfit and particulars Free. STANDARD SILVERWARE CO., BOSTON, MASS.
oct25—52t

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HOW TO GROW RIGHT.
A new valuable Scientific Treatise in connection with wonderful discoveries. By mail 25c. H. H. & J. B. DOOLITTLE & Co. 34 St., Phila. ☞
dec25-5t

SWEET, WHOLESOME BREAD
IS the most satisfactory at all food. Such bread can be ensured by the use of SURPRISE YEAST CAKES. Correspondence solicited with those having difficulty with their bread. Send for samples and our receipts for bread and biscuit to SURPRISE YEAST CO., Boston, Mass.
aug28-1y

WORK FOR ALL. $30 a week and expenses paid. Outfit worth $5 and particulars free. P. O. VICKERY, Augusta, Me.
jan8-13t

—At the recent meeting of the British Berkshire Society, according to The Farmer (London), "The question was raised as to what stand should be taken to insure perfection of marking, both for the Herd Book and the show yard. It was understood that the society was not prepared before another season to draw any distinct line in the matter, more than to recommend that animals should be fairly marked to be offered for registration, and that small irregularities of marking in the show yard, while not totally disqualifying an animal, should so count against him as to hinder his chance in competition with animals of nearly equal merit at other points and of perfect markings."

—Never hurry a horse just after eating or drinking. Make haste by going slow. Let the stomach have time to digest the meal before putting the animal to heavy work or driving on the road. If we do not give time for this, then the work is retarded, and what was given to strengthen the animal, becomes a source of irritation, and prevents free action of the body.

THE BOSTON MARKETS.

Under the influence of a slow trade and lower prices at other points our butter market has lost its strong tone, and holders are more anxious to realize. Receipts of fresh Western creamery have begun to accumulate, and extreme prices are not insisted upon. For round lots of the finest Western makes 30 cents per pound is the top selling price, and grades under the finest are offering freely at 25 to 28 cents. In a jobbing way sales range 2 to 3 cents higher. Northern fall creamery is still held at about 29 to 30 cents, but in the present condition of the market it would be hard to find buyers for large lots at 28 cents. Summer creamery at from 22 to 25 cents per pound has been selling fairly, but to command the outside price it must be very choice. A portion of the June stock runs down to 20 cents, but this is the bottom figure named by holders at present. What a few days may bring forth remains to be seen. Northern winter dairy lots range from 18 to 23 cents per pound, and are fairly sold up. Northern fall dairy is still quoted at 24 to 26 cents, but very little now on the market is good enough to command over 25 cents. The prices given above indicate a decline of 1 cent a pound from last week's rate, which might easily be recovered if trade should start up. Some dealers refuse to make any concessions, and claim that there is no reason for any weakness, as the stock here is not large and no more than will be needed to supply actual wants during the next month or two. Others, however—and among them are some of the oldest members of the trade—are fearful that the present weakness will be followed by a further decrease, and are anxious to realize on their high-cost goods. The market certainly is in a critical condition, but it is more owing to outside influence than anything that has been developed here. If the West has increased its make to an unexpected extent, and has a large surplus, then there is reason to fear a decline, though fresh stock will suffer more than held goods. But this has not yet been clearly proved, and holders should not be in a hurry to force sales at any material concessions.

The Chicago market was reported quiet and lower. Elgin extra creamery 31 cents. Western extra creamery 27 1-2 cents. Extra firsts 24 1-2 cents.

At Elgin, Illinois, butter ruled at 30 to 32 cents. Plenty was offered at 30 cents, with no takers. Sales over 20,000 pounds. Last week's sales were at 32 to 33 cents per pound.

In Montreal there is nothing discouraging in the situation, which continues healthy in tone with every prospect of a satisfactory wind-up. Favorable advices continue to be received from England.

The New York market is reported weak, with an accumulation of fresh Western creamery.

Cheese.

There are no signs of weakness in the cheese market. The demand has been quite moderate and buyers operate only for immediate wants, but stocks are small and holders are as confident as ever that prices will be higher before they are lower. The regular selling price for choice Northern factory is 13 1-2 cents per pound, with a higher range for small lots. Most of the receipts at Boston since the first of January have been on through bills for exports and stocks here have decreased. The Liverpool price has not been changed for over a week, and orders from the other side are not numerous, which to our mind is not a favorable condition of affairs to have higher prices here upon.

A New York trade circular makes the following statement: "We find a clerical error of 20,000 boxes in the New York State stock as advised in our estimate under date 5th inst. The correct footings are 40,600 boxes, instead of 60,600 boxes, making the total read 742,520, instead of 762,520 boxes. Since then we have one report from Ohio adding 40,000 boxes to stock there and 3000 boxes from a point in New York State, which was not included n former statement, thus adding 7000 boxes, making the total 749,520 boxes. Stocks in London last year 90,000 boxes, included Smithfield; therefore a statement of this year's stock, exclusive of Smithfield, would be misleading. London stock this year, 100,000 boxes, as we reported, is substantially correct.

Other Produce.

The egg market continues in buyers' favor. Receipts are still comparatively light, but the demand has dropped off materially and lower prices have to be accepted. Eastern extras were sold Tuesday at 32 cents and Western and Northern at 28 to 30 cents. Small lots of strictly fresh ruled higher. Limed are clearing up pretty well at 22 to 24 cents per dozen.

MISER PAINE'S MONEY.

More of his Eccentrities Detailed to Surrogate Rollins.

At the hearing before Surrogate Rollins at New York in the Paine will case on Tuesday, Brain Walsh of Lansingburg, N. Y. testified that he became acquainted with Mr. Paine through George W. Morgan, the organist. He saw Paine last in Madison-square Park in June, 1876. Paine told witness that George Morgan was the finest organist America had ever seen, and that for many acts of kindness he (Paine) would reward him.

Albert Ascher, piano dealer, testified to Paine's eccentricities, and told how on one occasion he emptied the contents of a paper of tobacco, belonging to witness, into his pocket.

Dr. Aschmead, who lived in the house at 177 Bleecker street, testified that Paine talked with him on current news, and often came to his room to read the papers. Witness said that Paine brought in a crate of rotten tomatoes one day. The landlady found them and threw them out. Paine wept bitterly. One night they found Paine's bed on fire, and the miser playing in the flames with his fingers. He never explained the cause of the fire.

Paine was affected with senile imbecility and decay. The muscles of his back were not strong enough to support his head, and those of the calf of the limbs seemed powerless. This paralysis of the lower limbs might affect only the spinal column, but it generally resulted from disease of the brain. To questions of ex-Governor Chamberlain as to Paine's ability the witness said that he had never known Paine to make an error in his language. He spoke clearly and distinctly, but this did not tend to show that he was a man of strong intellect, because his voice was thick, and in tone piercing and sharp.

"Suppose that his condition was the same 25 years ago, would that alter your conclusion as to his imbecility?" asked the governor.

"Yes, sir."

The witness also said that Paine was suffering from shrinking or condensation of the brain tissue. Witness meant by imbecility, unsoundness of mind.

"If you had known that James H Paine was educated at college, reared in college, moved in refined society and possessed unbounded means, and a brother of one of the leading men of Boston, who was always on the best terms with him, would it not increase your opinion as to his unsoundness?"

"Yes, sir."

"If you knew," again asked ex-Governor Chamberlain, "that Robert Treat Paine had expressed a desire to see him but once for a quarter of a century, that James H. Paine never asked to see any of his relatives, and that since the death of his brother the only relatives he had were grand-nephews and grand-nieces, who never inquired after or knew of James H. Paine until after his death, would you think it strange that he sought a life of seclusion, and do you think that showed any signs of irrationality?"

"No, sir."

TAXING PERSONAL PROPERTY.

"The assessed valuation of the personal property of the state in 1875," says Governor Hill, in his annual message, "was over $407,000,000 and in 1885 it was only $382,000,000, showing a decrease in ten years of $75,000,000. In one year alone —from 1884 to 1885—there was a decrease of $10,000,000. It is evident that this decrease has been upon the assessment rolls alone, and that the value or amount of personal property in this state has not, in fact, decreased, and demonstrates that our tax laws are either grossly defective, loosely or fraudulently executed or shamefully evaded." While in 1880 personal property in Massachusetts paid 42 61-100 per cent. of the State tax, in New York State it paid but about 14 per cent., and in 1884 about 11 47-100 per cent.

SEASONABLE GOODS,
Thompson's Champion
ROOT CUTTER,
The only practical machine in the market for cutting all kinds of Roots and Vegetables.

THOMPSON'S
LEVER FEED CUTTER,
The strongest, simplest, and of this capacity of any in the market.
CORN SHELLERS, all styles at lowest prices.
POULTRY SUPPLIES.
Beef Scraps, Fresh Ground Oyster Shells, Sea Shells, Cracked Bone, Chicken Crackers, Ground Wheat, Rejected Wheat, Buckwheat, Sunflower, &c.
HOT BED MATS—all sizes.
Call or send for Prices—they are the Lowest.
C. H. THOMPSON & CO.,
71 Clinton, 80 and 82 South Market Sts., & 34 Merchants Row, BOSTON, MASS.
jan22—1t

CASTORIA
for Infants and Children.
"Castoria is so well adapted to children that I recommend it as superior to any prescription known to me." H. A. ARCHER, M. D., 181 So. Oxford St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
Castoria cures Colic, Constipation, Sour Stomach, Diarrhœa, Eructation, Kills Worms, gives sleep, and promotes digestion.
Without injurious medication.
THE CENTAUR COMPANY, 182 Fulton Street, N. Y.
oct30—52t

HOLSTEIN-FRIESIANS.
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The Poet's Corner.

NOT AT HOME.

[From Temple Bar.]

O where is wee Mary? Jock's brocht her a linnet.
Hey Mary! hi Mary! Where can the lass be?
The kettle's to boil, an' ye're wanted this minute,
Yer feyther's come hame, ye mun haste wi' the tea!

Cheep birdie! Cry Minnie! the lassie's no heedin',
The kittle to-night it mun just tak' its chance!
For aff wi' licht heels thro' the bracken she's speedin',
And wha' pray can mak' for twa places at ance!

Wad ye cage a wild bird, or a lissom young fairy
To sing by the hearth to gude wife an' gude man?
There's a bird in the bush saftly whistlin' on Mary,
Sune, sune he'll be cooin', a bird in the an.'

Ye may ca' her in vain, tho' the kettle boils over,
And Jock, in the sulks lets the lintie fly free;
When the whin blossom burns, and the bee s i' the clover,
There's mair fun in kissin' than brewin' the tea!

Ladies' Department.

A HUMBLE CASTLE IN SPAIN.

BY WILLIAM M. BRIGGS.

During a residence of several years in the southern part of Spain, I made acquaintance with a family, which afterward ripened into a lasting friendship, a friendship, in fact, so strong that, in course of time, they adopted me, after the Spanish fashion, into their family circle as a son. Misfortune fell upon them; and with misfortune came loss of friends and many things, those seeming trifles that give, perhaps, to the impoverished their bitterest moments. They removed from the city, and took possession of a small farm or *hacienda*, which, with a mountain vineyard, still remained to them at the foot of the Sierra Morena. Thither I accompanied them, and of that two years' residence I now give you some account.

We were a party of five: Don Peppe, with his wife Dolores, myself, and two well-grown lads, named respectively Frasco, the elder, and Ricardo, sometimes called for euphony Rico, or for convenience *el Chico*; but why *el Chico* I never knew, unless it were that, being the younger, youth may have been considered instead of size; but so far as the fitness of things went, you might as well have called a church-tower *chico*—quite as well!

My memory of those years is very rose-colored. Indeed, it is a delightful thing in Providence that unpleasant events have a faculty of dropping out of mind, while a crowd of agreeable ones remain, as if Life were a magical sieve, whose loops of escape were exactly fitted for all heavy and irksome objects to penetrate and fall through, leaving the others like nuggets of priceless gold.

One can imagine how agreeably we were established in our (I must confess) most singular domicile, a cottage on the sands, with the waves curling up to within some dozen yards of our very threshold, and the gulls circling round in white and dove-colored clouds, and now and then a gawky crane, standing on one leg, as if the other had entirely given up business and retired for life.

Close to the sea it stood; the soft grey banks around it, and below whiter and whiter they grew, till they ended in the pure snowiness of the beach with its dirideen of shells to be swept out every day, as if we had had a snow-storm. There was something to me fascinating in this strangeness of life, and it grew upon me day by day. There were but two rooms for us to occupy, and they appeared, though one was large, almost too straitened for our accommodation. More, they seemed like some of those *posadas*, where muleteers are accustomed to find lodgings on the "cold, cold ground," and a stable for their beasts, happy to be sheltered for the night.

The house was a primitive edifice, a true Andalusian's peasant-house, low-walled, long, and almost windowless, and surmounted by a high-pitched roof. At one end a fantastic chimney reared itself, pinnacled and latticed like a dove-cote, domineering the whole building; and within, a mass and net-work of dusky rafters looked down on a cobble-stone floor, about forty by fifty feet in area. To this cavernous room there was but one window, with a swinging shutter, looking out on a desolate garden, long-neglected, and surrounded on every side by hedges of the prickly-pear.

To this apartment, with its immense height and size, there was an uncanny sort of charm as we entered it for the first time, its gloom so sharply contrasting with the splendid sunshine and brilliancy without. Blackened by age, cob-webbed by generations of spiders, it held at one end an enormous fire-place, cannopied by a huge, trumpet-shaped and vanishing into the darkness above; it held or supported a shelf, protruding like the ugly lip of some giant negress, and the whole grotesque structure as if about to fall, hovered like some evil bird of prey, over the cavity below, where Dolores' fire of cork-wood lay slumbering and winking at the old earthen-ware *puchero*, like a watchful tabby-cat; and always, indeed, Dolores shredding something, some vegetable or herb for our noon-day meal, till I was forced to think of the pot of the prophets, or the caldron of Meg Merriles.

Throwing open the wooden blind of the window, and admitting all the light we could, I discovered one of the ancient inhabitants of the place, one of its by-gone *penates*, in the shape of a loathsome snake, which writhed and curled itself along the foot-board of the wall in futile efforts to escape through some opportune crack or crevice; which opportunity came rather quicker than expected, through the descent of a timely poker.

Dolores, to whom a dirty house is worse than an evil spirit, was already busy with her broom. It was one of those self-torturing articles that semi-savage races seem to invent instinctively for the benefit of their womankind. It was a short-handled instrument, formed of the leaf of the scrub-palm, and operated through a dexterous twist of the wrist, by which the dirt in the room could be licked up from the cobbles by turning the entire body, so that one went zig-zagging round the room in a kind of St. Vitus minuet, dizzying to behold; but it was thoroughly Spanish, and Dolores was Spanish, and custom had inured her to her lot.

At one thing I was often amused whilst in Spain, viz., the rigid distinction between man's and woman's work; they never infringed on each other, but were as distinctly marked as among the American Indians. It was a painful task, this sweeping the floor; and once, when I thought Dolores overwhelmed with fatigue, I offered to take the brush in hand. She twitched it from me with indignation; it was woman's work, not man's. I have seen the same thing among the lower Irish, and regard it as characteristic of all half-civilized communities!

Leading from this room, which formed parlor, kitchen, and cellar, was a narrow door of unpainted plank; it opened into the one other apartment of our house, and was to it in size as the living is to a big glove. It contained a barred window, barricaded with a heavy shutter for the night, and room for three little cots, the sleeping places for Frasco, *el Chico*, and myself.

Peppe, the father, was always saluted by that Spanish title of respect, the sonorous *Don!* He was a man to be respected. Far above his class in native intelligence (and the Spanish peasant is no fool), he commanded the esteem of his neighbors by his honesty, his intellect, and the worthiness of his heart. He was ever a ready counsellor; he had been educated partly for a priest; and—how the absurdity of life mingles with its more serious aspects!—had had the honor of being closely related to a man, who, after living the life of a saint on earth, hardly escaped being made one in heaven, from the physical (not psychological) phenomenon, that his body, after death, streamed with phosphoric light, the superstitutious peasantry taking it for the halo of canonization!

He was the homeliest man on earth. If Dore, in delineating the features and form of *Don Quixote*, had taken Don Peppe for his model, Don Peppe could never have had a better likeness. Tall, meager, clad in faded garments, he stood like a point of exclamation; his head, narrow and elongated, ended in a pine-apple; while his lantern-jaws, his prominent Spanish nose, the nose of the true Hidalgo—he boasted his descent from the *Cid!*—all told of that self-esteem that supported him through life, elevated him among his neighbors, and guided every action of his existence—the hero of the immortal Cervantes!

As for the rest, Dolores was Dolores, and Frasco Frasco: yet, though Frasco was nearly as unbeautiful as his father, he was an excellent, honest-hearted fellow. He was full of devotion and sacrifice to the household, deeming his father the most admirable of of men, and patient with womankind.

But of *el Chico* I fear I cannot tell the same story; neither was he at all to my liking. I think of all youngsters he was the laziest. Six feet he measured, and proportionately fat! Inertia was his *forte*, stolidity his stronghold, and love of dainties his characteristic! In the morning early, when Don Peppe called the boys to their daily work, Frasco started as if he had been shot from a catapult; he sprang out of bed just as one plunges into a sea-bath. But Ricardo, *el Chico*, alas, no! It was like raising the obelisk! There was but one thing that *would* rouse him—the smell of pancakes in old Dolores' kettle.

Our bedroom looked upon the sea; the floor was laid with large, rough bricks, the resort of innumerable fleas! At five o'clock Don Peppe opened the big house-door, thick-stanchioned and bullet-proof, as are all doors and windows in the neighborhood of the Sierra Morena, on account of the banditti, who make those mountains their frequent rendezvous. And, indeed, the time came when we ourselves had to quit our quiet retreat, and seek the security of the village from fear of life and limb; for the Spanish bandit has an unpleasant way of snipping off one's thumbs and fingers, if there is any delay in the payment of a prisoner's ransom, two such instances having fallen under my own knowledge, whilst residing in that sunny land of romance!

At that lonely hour, the most mysterious in nature, when the white, wan light comes creeping over sea and land, ere the first aurora has flushed the east, the traveller in Spain rouses himself for his journey; the hour is called "*la alba*," the white, the tintless! Then from the farm-house, the wayside inn, come forth the scattered groups of pedestrians and horsemen and muleteers, who soon form themselves into an endless procession on the highway.

At early morn I have laid and listened to it—the jangling harness of the mules with their tinkling bells, the heavy tramp of hoofs, the call of voices through the darkness, the mysterious, gliding forms, the high, shrill tones of the mule-boys, as they ran by the side of their beasts, rolling their r's and crisping their sonorous Spanish in the air, almost like the crack of a whip-lash—pleasant memories of old times!—and filling the night with mysterious charm and beauty!

Old Peppe opened the door. It was the surveillance of a prudent man. Spain is a land of surprises. Everything may happen, sometimes a great deal does happen! It is well to have an eye over one's possessions, night and day. The peasant wakes, perhaps to a gypsy's theft or a tramp's purloinings or the plunder of a sheep-fold; or, as fortune happens, he goes forth to his morning's work a poor man, and pulling down some old, decayed wall, to make room for a pig-stye, a shower of yellow coin tumbles into the dirt, or a pot of gold-dust is discovered, which makes him rich, comparatively speaking, for the remainder of his days.

One day, in our village, an old woman was scouring the stone-steps before her house with sand; it saved her a penny at the store, and she was grateful for it. She had found it in the hollow of an old, twisted olive tree; it was pure gold dust! It was treasure hidden by the flying Moors (when they left Spain, hoping to return at some future time, and take possession of it), which was thus not unseldom discovered. And, indeed, I knew of other instances, quite enough to make people discontented and unhappy.

But Peppe was opening the door. Instantly every living creature within was in motion. The cock flapped his wings, and flew with his hens through the opening. The ducks paddled out for their first delicious breakfast of mud. The turkeys gobbled, and made a heavy exit. And the flock of pigeons, which roosted all night in the rafters overhead, made a glorious sweep out into the clear blue sky!

Glad was I when the feverish night was passed. Hotter than an oven is a Spanish cottage; every crack that would admit air or danger is hermetically sealed—for they seem equally afraid of both ventilation and banditti. In hurried the salt, fresh breeze; and without was the flash of the waves, the sea-gulls on wing, the life and animation of early morn, the movements of men on the beach, the creeping sardine-boats far out at sea, and the whole wide sweep of sail-set waters—all rushing simultaneously on the view, and gladdening my very soul!

But the big, square room was not all our own. Men and cattle had to share it; one-half was dwelling-place, the other stable; divided by a barrier of drift-wood and pito-stalks. The chimney-side we kept as our own; a chimney seeming to have always a home-feeling about it that humanizes the roughest; but the brute creation we kept apart.

The Spaniards have a habit of naming their larger cattle in a way that is very absurd. For instance, I heard one evening a cowboy, driving home his cattle, calling to a cow, "*Senorita*," "*Senorita*," and abusing her like a pick-pocket. Our two oxen, fine broad-horned beasts, but wild as bulls, rejoiced in the names of "*el Enamorado*" (he enamoured one?), and "*el Estudiante*" (the student?). Our mule was nameless, being a late purchase; but the donkey was "*Jacquito*." And the pig was only an occasional visitor, when banditti were round or the nights proved rough and stormy. These all stood in a row before hanging cribs attached to the wall. The floor was densely littered with leaves and rubbish; but the whole affair was to me a great source of annoyance, though the family did not seem to mind it much.

The poultry, too, was another inconvenience that had to be borne. A perch had been constructed from the barrier of drift-wood to the opposite wall of the cottage. Here roosted our hens, above them dwelt the gobbler and his tribe, below on the cobble was the home of the ducks, and overhead, promiscuously scattered, dwelt our parti-colored pigeons! So that one may well imagine what a stir there was when the door was opened in the morning.

But out of doors I cannot tell you how lovely it was. It was no virtue to rise early, and no power of inertia like that of *Chico's* kept me in bed. For the house-swallows called to you, and would not let you stay. What music has the song-swallow of the Mediterranean shore! What a charming and comical and piquant song! A few delicious notes, and then a little turn-up cry at the end, like the tattoing of a cock from a thirsty bottle, and then away, away to the field and brook, with his fine tailed coat and his arrowy flight! and then add, if you please, the perfume made of a thousand flowers, picked up by the vagrant winds from garden and orchard and hill-top, covered with thyme, and mixed with the pungent odor of the waves. Never did Lubin, or anybody else, bottle up such an extract of Paradise!

Before us lay the sea, that peerless middle-ocean that has held the world entranced with its centuries of poetry, romance, and beauty! Perfect in color, deeper, far deeper in hue than the skies above it, substituting for the cold, cobalt tint of the north, the softer and richer ultramarine of, the South, the common Italian prints, which startle the eye, do not belie its magnificent blue, however extravagant they may appear. Overhead, a dreamy canopy of sky, capable of wondrous radiances at sunset. And beyond, on the distant horizon, the shores of Africa, with their range of coast-mountains; while to the right, the rock pinnacle of Gibralter is dimly seen, rising from the mist and haze of the sea. To the left, beyond the bend of the horse-shoe curve of the bay, three miles by sea and four by land, lay our village of M——, named by the good queen Isabella, when she and Ferdinand took the fortress from the Moors.

Behind the house lay the foot-hills and the mountain-summits of the Sierra Morena. At sunset the mountain fairly glowed. Their amber clefts, their blue ravines, their tall and lofty pinnacles of rock, bronzed and burned into a thousand tints, were a miracle of color, glowing like a furnace fed with hidden fires, or cooled and toned into lakes and blues and pearl and azure, as the golden haze penetrated their distant, perilous retreats!

But before I close, I must describe one of the chief charms of a Spanish peasant's cottage in summer: its lodge of boughs, its additional summer apartment, built before the door for rest and coolness, its most graceful and characteristic feature, the *sombrajo!*

It was like playing at Robinson Crusoe to build it; for the whole family, young and old, took part in its construction. First there must be a going-out and a letting-forth. All the cattle are to be removed from their winter quarters, and the house thoroughly cleansed. Spring has come, and with it the *sombrajo!*

The principal material that enters into the construction of this bowery portico is the *pito* or *Agava Americana*. The plant is called *pita*, and its flower-stalk *pito* by the peasantry, and makes a very useful factor in Spanish economy. The Arab might as well be without his date-palm as the Spaniard of the south without his *pito*. A quantity of these stalks are, therefore, the first thing to be procured; next the long, stout river-reeds are to be obtained; then the cane-brake to be searched for stout canes; and finally, the river-banks must give up their trees of oleander, and the woods their fragrant pine boughs and underbrush. The whole family are employed in these undertakings, and when all the material has been brought together, the builders begin to build.

Nearly ten feet before the cottage door, and about six feet apart, holes are dug in the ground for planting the tallest and strongest pito-stalks. From top to top a horizontal line of stalks connects these uprights, and is secured to them by cords of *esparto* grass. Then another row of *pitos* is laid from the scalloped eaves of the roof to meet this horizontal line, bound to the uprights. Canes are then interwoven with the *pitos* overhead, making a cross network; and thus the framework is finished. Next comes a thickly-matted, ground-layer of reeds, hanging down at the sides in graceful, sheaf-like festoons; lastly, the shrubbery, the pine-boughs, and the oleanders. Before night-fall the work is done. And here through the summer days, and late into the summer nights, will sound the castinette and the guitar, the jest and the song of the Spanish peasant.

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Jan22—1t

A STAGE MYSTERY.

Accident? Well, yes; even in the profession it has been usually spoken of as an accident. You see, those who knew most about it had an interest to keep things quiet, and the whole truth did not come out at the inquest. Besides, you will remember the tremendous political excitement occupying every one's attention at the time and the fact that the affair was only reported in the local papers.

Jealousy was at the bottom of it. Ay, you may wonder at my saying so, but I am the only man alive who has fathomed the whole truth; the only man who might have prevented it all with a little more quickness of wit and action. But you know I have always been a weak man, if an observant one. How could I have guessed? How could I have ventured to interfere? I am a poor creature at catching at opportunities. If I had been more alert I dare say I should have held a very different position, for they all say I am fit for something better than sitting scraping away night after night in the orchestra here. Yes; my first teacher, I recollect, prophesied that I should make a name for myself. But then, one of the great strings of my ambition, if I ever had any, cracked over twenty years ago.

Yes, well over twenty years ago. Bagley's company it was, and Bagley's was one of the even then few remaining provincial stock companies working a circuit, sticking as near as possible to the legitimate, but making the best of their money out of good, stirring, slashing melodrama. The teacup-and-saucer school had not yet taken root in London and was undreamt of in the provinces. I was the leader of the orchestra, and a very good berth I thought it for a young fellow of six and twenty, though I dare say my salary would have made some of the pretty school of white kid-gloved young gentlemen—who pose as conductors—jump in amazement. But I did my work as well as ever they do, and had my orchestra well with me, though I beat time with a bow instead of a *baton*. As I said, I was looked upon as a promising young fellow, and I did not know what I might not rise to in those days. And I wanted to rise, not only for myself, but for some one else.

Yes, of course it was a woman. The very one, poor Jessie Denton, for they were not all De Veres and Montmorencies in those days. A hard working little thing she was. Straight as a die, too, brought up in the profession from her childhood. Well up in her business, only saving about it and hating its friends, no interests and no ambition beyond the theatre. The breed has died out, I am afraid. Ladies and all kinds of outsiders flock into the profession nowadays and think about fifty outside matters, from lawn tennis upward, instead of the one sole thing, the shop. They gush a great deal as to their art, but that is about all they can do. In my early days they would have had to keep hard at work learning fresh parts, which would have been ever so much better for them. Why, I can run over whole families of theatre folk living among themselves, and having no more knowledge of any other life than their own than of the laws of etiquette in China. Society! Actors and actresses did not know the meaning of the word. I remember a very big man from the provinces coming to play leading parts at Drury Lane who had never entered a drawing-room in his life. His whole idea of existence beyond the theatre was confined to country lodgings and hotel smoking-rooms. But he could play Shakespeare.

There, there, I am doddering on as only a foggy and a failure can dodder. Well, Jessie Denton was, as I said, one of our company—singing chambermaid, but with a chance of developing into something better by hard work. She was a pretty girl, a very pretty girl, and so bright, so brisk and so good-humored that no one could help loving her. Yes, I loved her myself as I had never loved any other women. We had both been in the company some time, and spent much of it together. I did all I could to help her on with her singing and music, and many an hour we passed together at the piano whenever we were fortunate enough to come across such an instrument. They were not so plentiful in theatrical lodgings as you find them now. I sometimes had it on my tongue to tell her what I felt for her, but always checked myself. I am an observant man, as I said before, and I saw that although she liked me as a friend there was, as yet, but little chance of anything more. So I waited and hoped for a change—and let the chance slip forever.

We had lost several old stagers about that time, and among the new blood replacing them was our leading man, Percy Halford, a young nincompoop who, on the strength of a good face, an imposing figure and a full voice, thought himself fit to play anything from Romeo downward. A regular duffer I always thought him, but he went down, even in the provinces, where, I maintain, audiences have a far better appreciation of real acting than in London. Women who really ought to have known better used to make eyes at him from the boxes and languish in admiration till he grew to think himself no end of a genius. Some idiots, too, used to write him admiring letters, and barmaids and such like would make up to him most shamefully. I do not say that he was a bad fellow, but he was an insufferable lump of conceited egotism, and he was actually as much in love with any one besides himself as he could be with Jessie Denton—much to the disgust of Miss Cottisfold, our leading lady, a fine figure of a woman still and one greatly admired. Yet more so to that of Richard Egerton.

Egerton was a clever fellow and something of a mystery. Like Halford, he was a newcomer among us. What his real name was—for Egerton was plainly an assumed one—I do not know. From one or two facts it was evident that he had been some time or other at sea, and I fancy that he had got into some scrape and been forced to leave the Royal Navy. Very likely I should say, for he had a vile temper, to my mind. Oh, he was a pleasant companion enough, but as peppery as Lucifer, and when once roused I should say capable of anything. Two or three times I have known him to get into a row and to fight like a demon. Once he went so far as to strike me, though I must say he apologized afterwards and we soon made it up. Not much of an actor, but still a fairly clever one considering his lack of early training, and good at villain's parts, for which his dark face and lissom figure fitted him. But he had one great pull over the rest of us, in that he had evidently seen a great deal of the world and could put us right on all manner of points. Then he was quick and handy, as a sailor always is, and would devise all manner of tricks and dodges for overcoming difficulties as to scenery and the like, which made him a great favorite with old Bagley, though those two used to quarrel, too, at times. And nothing would satisfy him but to fall in love with Jessie Denton.

We were at S—— at the time for the Easter season. Bagley had resolved to put up an original drama for Easter Monday, and not a bad one. It was shortly after the production of the "Colleen Bawn," and as there was a run on Irish pieces and a large Irish population in the town to boot, he set the company to work on a play he christened "Mavourneen Asthore; or, The Green Glades of Glendalough." I do not in the least know what this title meant, nor indeed its relation to the play itself; but, then, as Mr. Holingshead once pointed out in connection with a kindred advertisement, it looked well on the bills and pleased the public. It was like all Irish dramas, though, as originally translated, the scene was laid in Brittany during the struggle between the Royalists and Republicans. There were a young patriot and his sweetheart, and a wicked squiren who was his rival, and an English officer in love with the patriot's sister, and a desperado Captain of Whiteboys in love with her, too, and a foxy agent, and a faithful foster-brother, with a comic tourist for him to play up at. But the real heroine of the piece was played by Jessie Denton. She was a young peasant girl named Shelah—I have noticed that all peasant girls in dramas are named Shelah when they are not called Conagh or Norah—cherishing a hopeless love for the patriot and going through fire and water to serve him—carrying messages and foiling plots and I do not know what else. A very good part it was, and a better one in some respects than she had ever had a chance of playing. Indeed, Miss Cottisfold was somewhat jealous, and expressed an opinion that she ought to have had it herself. But as she was—well, imposing in presence, she reflected that it was hardly her line to go scrambling about precipices, and escaping from ruined manors, so she badgered Bagley into having her own part written up. He wedged in a fine moonlight soliloquy *a la* Juliet, on a balcony—there is always a lot of moonlight in Irish pieces—for her to deliver in the fourth act; and, as her arms were still very good and her elocution her strong point, she was satisfied. Every one else, for a wonder, was content with his or her part, and we worked away splendidly, whilst old Bagley chuckled at the prospect of a big success.

Just about this time the climax came. Jessie showed herself wonderfully clever as Shelah, and there was no doubt of her making the hit of the piece. I wonder whether the thought entered Percy Halford's mind that a girl capable of such things would make a capital wife from a professional point of view. At any rate, he spoke to her and got an answer. So did Dick Egerton, and so did I. Not the same one though. Perhaps if I had spoken earlier—but there, I will not say any more; I cannot bear to think of it. I met Egerton the very afternoon on which I had asked Jessie to be my wife. He seemed wild and excited, and I fancy he had been drinking. He caught me by the arm.

"What, you too, Teddy, old man?" he said, and looked me in the face and laughed. "The barber's block has got the best of both of us this time." I understood him, though how he knew of it I could not tell. Then he would insist on my turning into a bar with him. I fancy as he drank up his liquor he muttered something like "curse the jilt," but I will not be certain. He was, though, very strange that afternoon, and knowing his temper, I had an idea that he would go and pick a quarrel with Halford, and, indeed, hinted as much in order to check him; but he did not, and was all right at the theatre that night. Still, two or three times during the next day or so his manner was very strange, and I spoke to one or two people about it. At the time, they said they did not notice it, but afterwards, when I reminded them of it, they said they recollected it perfectly.

But I was there no longer to receive it. I had darted down the orchestra stairs and hurried at once on to the stage. All was in confusion as I made my way to the back of the scene. Jessie was lying there the centre of a crowd of frightened men and women. Her head, the poor pale face streaked with blood, was on the lap of Miss Cottisfold, who—heaven bless the whole-hearted soul!—was sobbing her heart out as she vainly strove to restore her to consciousness. Bagley was raving like a madman, and Halford stood looking on like a bewildered fool. A little way off another group was clustered around Egerton, equally motionless. Horrible mockery of all was the thunder of applause still coming from the front of the house, the "call" to which their ears were deaf forever.

To the day of my death I shall never know what really took place during the next few minutes. I have since been told that I threw myself on my knees beside Jessie and went on like a maniac, begging her to look up, to speak to me. They had, they say, quite a job to get me away, and then a doctor arrived, and she and Egerton were removed to one of the dressing-rooms, while some one went before the curtain and dismissed the audience.

I believe I sat in a state of stupor, from which I was only aroused by Bagley taking me by the arm and saying something. I seemed to wake up at once and to have all my wits about me as I looked him in the eyes.

"Good heavens, Masterton!" he said, he was always partial to me, "what is the meaning of this, my lad?"

"It is terrible," I gasped out. "What a frightful accident."

"Accident! That's just it. There's more than an accident. Try and pull yourself together. Did you see anything strange from the front?"

"What do you mean!" I asked in amazement.

"She was shot."

"Shot!"

"Yes. The doctor says that she has a couple of bullet wounds. She may have been dead before she fell."

Bullet wounds! Then the curl must have been shorn from her head by a bullet. I was too much amazed to reply for some time, and then I managed to say—

"But the guns, who loaded them?"

"Egerton, as far as I can make out."

"And what does he say?" I said, for I hardly knew what I was talking about.

"Say! His neck is broken."

I do not quite know how Bagley managed it, but the doctor was a good friend of his, and at his earnest persuasion, I fancy, agreed not to say anything about the bullet wounds at the inquest. Save he and Miss Cottisfold, who had helped him to disrobe poor Jessie, no one besides Bagley and myself knew of them. The local police were not flyers, and at the inquest a verdict of "accidental death" was given in both cases, for it was thought that Jessie must have either been startled by the noise of the guns or turned dizzy from the height at which she found herself. The Coroner, however, lectured old Bagley terribly on pandering to a depraved taste for sensationalism, and the old fellow never got over the business. It pretty well ruined him, and he died almost a pauper.

It was one of those mysteries which will never be satisfactorily cleared up, though, as I said, in my own mind I have very little doubt about the matter. Bagley's theory was that Egerton, in his mad jealousy, had resolved to slay Jessie and put bullets in the guns and had either fallen from an accident or thrown himself purposely down in an agony of remorse. I thought the former, though old Page, the chief carpenter, always vowed that the bridge was perfectly safe and that he could not account for it giving away as it did. Certainly the only man who had any chance of tampering with the guns was Egerton, and the only possible motive was the revenge of a jealous lover. Yes, I was a discarded lover, too, as you see. But not a jealous one—oh, no. Good-night.

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FAITH'S ELOPEMENT.

BY LOTTIE E. M'DONALD.

[Farmer's Home Journal.]

Far up on the step-ladder, dusting the tops of the book-case and picture-frames, stood our diminutive heroine, Faith Bryson.

This was Wednesday, the general "cl'arin' up" day, as the kitchen factotum termed it, when a vigorous onslaught was waged against the enemies, dirt and dust, until every corner shone again.

Just as Faith had mounted on tip-toe to an imaginary speck of dust far up on the wall, she heard a vile, manly step come ringing down the hall, and a cheery whistle that she knew. So she had just time to sit down on the top step of the ladder, when an intrusive head appeared inside the door, and a laughing voice said pleadingly:

"Please, ma'am, may I come in?"

"No!" cried Faith, from the clouds, as it were, "of course not. What are you doing you always to come over Wednesday mornings, when you are certain to find us in a plight, and I looking like a fright?"

"Which is a rhyme, oh ladye mine," answered the intruder, awaiting no further persuasion, but walking in coolly enough, looking with such evident admiration at the fairy figure enthroned so far above his head, that the pretty eyelids drooped, and a quick tinge deepened in the fair cheek.

Perhaps you think a young lady with a sweeping cap on her head and dust brush in her hand can't be made to look picturesque, but that shows your experience is at fault. Two or three moistened rings of golden hair had crept out from under the obnoxious cap, which bound in blue, was far from unbecoming, and she made a bright of coloring against the dusky background of the somber-hued library.

"What's your errand, sir intruder, and how did you know where I was?" said Faith at length, breaking the silence that was rapidly becoming dangerous.

"I met your mother at the door, who graciously informed me of your whereabouts, and as to my errand, as though I needed any other motive power to give me a brisk three-quarters of a mile walk, than to ascertain the condition of m'lady's health and happiness," bowing profoundly.

"Have done with nonsense, Fred, and tell me the truth in plain Anglo-Saxon. Is that all you wanted to know?" and the red lips pouted so bewitchingly that Fred wished in the depths of his wicked heart that she was not quite so far away from him.

"Well, no, not quite all I want to know," he answered, and Fred Clauson's voice had a queer ring in it, as he looked up at her in a way that caused the eyelids to again fall over the blue eyes. "But my principal errand here this morning is to i...ite your ladyship to ride down the river on the ice this afternoon, to Gunsborough. Annie Cleason and Will Manchard, Minnie Gray and Ed Brown are going. We will start just after dinner, and start back before dark."

"Oh, how charming, Fred!" cried Faith, slipping down from the ladder; "what lovely things you always think of! I'll go and see what mamma says." And she flew toward mamma's room, with a little fear in her heart lest the whole affair should be vetoed by that excellent lady, for mamma never felt easy when Faith was on the river, although the road was essayed at the beginning of winter, and tested every day by teams passing over it. Yet occasionally accidents would happen.

Least of all did she like the idea of her going with Fred Clauson, for these two had been in love with each other ever since they wore pinafores, and Fred was a little wild, not very bad, you know, but still some things that he did Deacon Bryson and his wife did not altogether approve of.

Now, Will Manchard, a great good-natured fellow, with plenty of money, had been pretty attentive to Faith lately, and mamma was comforting herself with the thought that Faith had outgrown her childish attachment. She raised no particular objection to the excursion now, particularly as Will Faith named over the ones who were going, putting Will Manchard's name first.

So Fred drove up soon after in his natty little Portland cutter, filled with warm robes and drawn by his fast trotter, at which Mamma Bryson looked askance, but she had her hands so full of wraps and warm soapstones, and her mind so full of parting admonitions to her daughter, that Fred luckily escaped the lecture he otherwise must inevitably have received on fast driving.

They made a handsome couple, even mamma could not help acknowledging that, and Faith's merry laugh came back more musical than the silver-voiced bells to the loving mother's heart. For Faith, the only child, was idolized by her parents.

Soon they were flying down the river as only Fred's fast trotter could take them, so that they reached Gainsborough far in advance of the rest of the party. They were not at all cold, and Faith disliked going to the hotel before the others came up. So a bright thought occurred to Fred most opportunely.

"I have a little business to attend to at Angelica, only two miles from here across the country. Supposing we ride over there now; we will have ample time before they get here," he proposed, and Faith, nothing loath, consented.

Now, I am inclined to think this a deep plot on Fred's part, for it wasn't often lately that he had Faith all alone, and he meant to improve the shining opportunity this afternoon. Faith, with woman's marvelous intuition, devined what was coming, and had chatted unceasingly all the way down the river, and had skilfully diverted the subject when it grew dangerous.

So after leaving a merry message for their friends at the hotel, they started, Faith talking like a magpie until Fred saw that it was to be a repetition of the river ride, when he suddenly turned and said, without the slightest preface or premonition: "Faith Bryson, I love you dearly; will you be my wife?"

"Oh, Fred," said Faith, at bay, with her face in a crimson glow, "how can you be so unkind? No, of course I can't—I don't—I mean I do——" she stammered, getting more and more confused every moment, because she was aware without looking that Fred was growing white, and glaring at her in a terrific way.

"Do you mean, Faith Bryson," he demanded, sternly, "that you have been deceiving me all these years, and that you don't love me?"

"No, of course I don't," said Faith, indignantly to the first question; but Fred chose to think, in his masculine perversity, that she did not love him, and in his blind passion he struck his spirited horse a blow that caused the infuriated animal to spring aside, and in another moment they were both landed in the snow, and the horse had gone.

Faith was only stunned for a moment, but opening her eyes, she saw Fred lying near quite white and still, with the blood trickling in a tiny stream down his forehead.

Poor Faith thought him dead, and knelt beside him, supporting the dear wounded head in her arms, endeavoring to stop the trickling blood with her little handkerchief, and calling him so piteously and tenderly that he must have come back from death's door to have heard it.

I don't think Master Fred was as badly hurt as he pretended, but it was inexpressibly nice, after his recent misery, to lie in Faith's arms, and listen to her tender caressing words. So presently he ventured to groan feebly, never opening his eyes. His experiment was eminently successful, for Faith, forgetful of proprieties and everything but that she loved him, bent over him rapturously and kissed his forehead, entreating him to open his eyes and *live* once more.

"Oh, Fred, I *do* love you, and always have!" she exclaimed, and at this comforting assurance the young man opened a pair of very wide awake black eyes, with such an alarming twinkle in each that Faith came back to earth in a hurry, and tried to disengage herself, whereupon this bad youth showed such evident symptoms of a relapse that she dared not let him drop, so had to content herself with covering the mischievous eyes with her hand, crying impioringly: "*Don't!*"

"Yes, but I will, though," replied this audacious specimen of genus homo. "Before I get up from here you must promise to be my wife!"

"Anything for a release," said Faith saucily. "I—guess—I—will."

"Leave out the guess," demanded this inexorable tyrant.

"Well, I *will*, then!" replied Faith, quite meekly.

"That's right," with the utmost complacency; "now, then, give me another kiss."

"Fred Clauson," cried Faith. "I *never* did, and never will!"

"Faith, Faith! how can you perjure your soul with a falsehood? Didn't you kiss my forehead just before I opened my eyes?"

It was *too* much for human nature to endure. Faith bounded to her feet regardless of consequences, and then this pair of turtle doves awoke to the fact that they were in the woods without horse or cutter; that the short winter day was closing in upon them, and that a fine ice storm was falling, with the flakes as sharp as needles.

Fred had no idea where they were, for he calmly confessed that the trip to Angelica was a base fabrication. He had no idea where it was, and they were at least five miles from Gainsborough.

Faith hadn't the heart to reprove his wickedness, so after binding his wounded head up in a handkerchief, he started in the direction the horse had taken, leaving poor little Faith wrapped in the robes (which had fortunately been spilled out at the same time they were), and frightened half to death at being left alone.

Luckily, he found the horse and cutter all uninjured, about half a mile from there, and so returned quite quickly. But it was growing very dark, and Faith had grown benumbed with the cold. Fred walked her around a little while, and made her swallow some brandy that he had in his pocket, until the blood began to circulate once more. Then he put her in the cutter, holding her closely in his arms, and drove swiftly toward town.

Faith's consciousness was quite gone when they reached the hotel, and the landlady took her into her room and worked over her for nearly an hour before the blue eyes opened again.

Meantime Fred found their friends had gone as soon as the storm commenced, and that now the track was so covered that all the teamsters had put up for the night. Fred paced the sitting-room with his forehead knitted up anxiously.

He had sent a telegram to Father Bryson as soon as possible, explaining their detention, and saying that in all probability they could not reach home that night. And now he was thinking about it. He fancied how the scandal mongers would talk, and he knew that the strict Puritanical notions of propriety held by Faith's father and mother would be terribly shocked. He could not bear that a single breath of suspicion should sully his pure, white flower. And while he was thinking, the door opened, and in walked Faith, looking a very snow wraith, she was so white. Fred went to her, and took her tenderly in his arms, and half carried her to the sofa, and after they had talked a little while, Faith said:

"Can we go home pretty soon, Fred?"

"My darling," said Fred, "the river is so covered with snow that it would be the height of folly to risk our lives upon it; besides, you are not strong enough to ride twelve miles to-night. No, dear, we must stay all night. I have telegraphed your father how it is."

Poor Faith commenced to cry as she thought of her father and mother, and Fred said quietly:

"You are thinking of what people will say, my darling, and I have been thinking of it also; and Faith, to-morrow you must go home as my wife."

"Oh, Fred, I cannot! I cannot!" cried Faith, aghast.

"My love, you must. You say you will marry me some day; why not at once, and avert all gossip? It will be as easy to get father and mother to forgive us for that as to sanction our engagement."

Faith stopped sobbing, but it required many more arguments to gain her consent. But Fred conquered at last, and Pana Bryson read the following telegram the next morning to his astonished wife, who had never slept a wink in anxiety for her tenderly guarded child:

"Faith and I were married this morning at ten. Will be at the Grand Hotel at noon.

"FRED CLAUSON."

"Well, you can better imagine than I can describe the scene that ensued. How Father Bryson stormed up and down the room, declaring he never would forgive them! When mamma heard *that*, she dried her tears and said, sharply:

"Nonsense! Not forgive them, indeed! Possibly you have forgotten how you urged me to elope with you from boarding-school when I was fifteen and you eighteen. Humph! Not forgive them, indeed!"

Deacon Bryson looked at